Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-101 *27 May 1993*

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Rio Group Deplores Guatemalan President's 'Decision'

PY2705030093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 26 May (EFE)—The Rio Group today called for the immediate normalization of social and political life in Guatemala.

The members of the Rio Group, which has its "temporary" headquarters in Santiago, deplored the decision of Guatemalan President Jose Serrano, who suspended the Constitution, dissolved Congress, and restricted individual rights and guarantees.

In a communique released this afternoon the Rio Group called on the Guatemalan Government to "duly respect human rights and democratic institutions."

The communique warns that these rights must be "strictly respected" by the Guatemalan Government, in accordance with its international commitments.

The Rio Group is made up of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras (representing Central America), Jamaica (representing the Caribbean countries), Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Central American Leaders Issue Communique on Guatemala

PA2605200593 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 May 93 p 9

[Communique issued by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama in Tegucigalpa on 25 May]

[Text] The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama state:

1. Their deep concern over the serious incidents that took place on 25 May in Guatemala and the breakup of the institutional order in this brother country on 25 May.
2. Their commitment to the democratic system and the mechanisms it provides for the solutions of conflicts in society.
3. Their hope that the current situation being experienced in Guatemala will be overcome in the shortest time possible for a quick return to the country's democratic institutionality.
4. Their confidence that the aforementioned situation be resolved within a framework of full respect for the individual guarantees of the Guatemalan citizens.

They reiterate their respect for the right of the Guatemalan people to decide their future in freedom with all the guarantees provided by the democratic system and their decision to contribute as much as possible to the restoration of the normal situation in Guatemala, if asked.

[Issued] Central America, 25 May 1993

Regional Authorities React To Serrano Measures

PA2605023393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports carried on 25 May by news agencies monitored by Panama Bureau on the reaction by authorities and political figures in Latin America to the decision by President Jorge Serrano to suspend the Constitution on 25 May.

Costa Rica

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1810 GMT carries a 150-word report datelined in San Jose citing Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon as telling reporters: "I hope Guatemala will return to its institutional order as soon as possible. That is what is fundamental and most important." Calderon says he declines to comment further, until he has the "whole picture."

Honduras

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 2133 GMT carries 150-word report datelined in Tegucigalpa on remarks by Honduran Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas, asking "for an exemplary punishment" for Serrano. He indicates the developments in Peru and now in Guatemala "are an epidemic that must be stamped out."

Mexico

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1850 GMT carries as 100-word report on an official statement issued by the Mexican Presidency, voicing its hope that constitutional order will be restored "soon" in Guatemala. The report adds that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari got in contact with his Central American counterparts "to coordinate a joint policy."

Nicaragua

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1637 GMT carries a 200-word report datelined Managua citing former Nicaraguan National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar as stating that dissolving the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice "are worrisome measures that undoubtedly break the constitutional order" in Guatemala. He added, however, that were Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro to take a similar step, "I am certain it would be welcomed by the people."

At 2107 GMT ACAN carries a 200-word report on an official statement issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, voicing its concern and proposing that a meeting of the Central American Foreign Ministers' Council be held "soon" to explore ways to contribute to resolving the situation in Guatemala.

At 2145 GMT ACAN carries a 300-word report citing the reaction by Nicaraguan politicians to Serrano's decision. Deputy Miriam Arguello, president of the Conservative Popular Alliance, states that "a coup of this sort cannot be accepted under any circumstances." Deputy

Sergio Ramirez, of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, is quoted as saying Serrano "has lost any legitimacy." National Assembly President Gustavo Tablada describes the coup "as regrettable."

More Regional Reaction To Serrano Measures

PA2705031393

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by Panama Bureau on 26 May regarding Latin American officials' and politicians' reactions to President Jorge Serrano's decision on 25 May to suspend parts of the Constitution.

El Salvador

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish on 26 May on page 7 publishes a 650-word report on a communique issued by the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama regarding President Serrano's decision. The communique states their hope that the current situation in Guatemala "is overcome as soon as possible, and that a return to institutional democracy is soon achieved" within a framework of full respect for the Guatemalan people's rights. The governments reassert their respect the Guatemalan people's right to decide their own destiny and they state their willingness to help restore normalcy in Guatemala. The report states the Central American vice presidents ended a meeting in San Salvador, adding that the meeting was not attended by the vice presidents of Guatemala or Panama. The vice presidents said events such as that in Guatemala "delay the Central American democratization process, regardless of the causes that motivated the event or the circumstances in which it occurred."

San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 26 May broadcasts a four-minute report on Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro's statements concerning the situation in Guatemala. Pacas Castro says he respects "the principle of nonintervention in other friendly countries' affairs, so I cannot comment on the situation." Pacas Castro says he expects "Guatemala will return to an institutional state" and "the Constitution will be restored in that country." In the same newscast, Canal Seis Television broadcasts a report on Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front leader Jorge Shafik Handal's statement condemning and rejecting President Serrano's decision and demanding the Salvadoran Government follow suit. Handal says: "An ambiguous position or, in the worst case, support for the Serrano administration under these circumstances might imply an effort to encourage similar actions in our country." Handal says Serrano must restore constitutional order in his nation to facilitate negotiations with the guerrilla groups and let democracy prevail.

Honduras

Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO on 26 May on page 20 publishes a report on Supreme Court of Justice President Orlando Lozano Martinez's statement that any act like what occurred in Guatemala interrupts the normal functions of democratic institutions and jeopardizes the coexistence of nations. Lozano says the self-inflicted coup will represent a drawback for the Central American Court of Justice. He adds that he will contact his fellow court presidents in the area to state their solidarity with the Guatemalan Supreme Court of Justice. He says Guatemala's example will represent a drawback for Central America "because the Central American community must exist within a constitutional framework, and there is no other civilized way of replacing it."

Cuba

Foreign Minister on Relations With U.S.

PA2605140793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Barbara Betancourt on interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by local and international reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has analyzed relations between our country and the United States. In recent meetings with local and international reporters, Foreign Minister Robaina was asked about the prospects of relations between Cuba and the United States.

[Begin Robaina recording] I believe there is a new administration and we must understand that we are not among its priorities. It suffices to say that we are not among this new administration's priorities when one observes that the initial pronouncements to be made will not be regarding relations with Latin America or particularly, Cuba. There are many internal problems of which the U.S. administration must take care. Obviously in the assessment of its first 100 days, apparently it is not faring so well. I know that it is the object of much pressure, much insistence on some things. We prefer to assume the position of observer, with much respect, allowing the United States to bide its time. We do not want to hasten or create any situation in which one would have to appeal for something or expedite something. This is perhaps not the right moment to make a pronouncement. A lot of questions are asked in this sense as to whether or not there are any signs. I think that our people are sufficiently prepared to realize that if there is any sign at all, it is just that. To be honest, the U.S. administration has not continued to present itself in the aggressive manner that former administrations did when they referred to Cuba. As soon as there was a microphone, the speech was heard in Cuba. I don't think that there is any reason for excessive enthusiasm, for a very simple reason: The language is not as aggressive, but there is nothing as aggressive as the blockade. There is nothing as aggressive as the Torricelli law, which this new administration supported. The new administration took office supporting the Torricelli law. I think there is nothing as aggressive as continuing the radio and televised aggression that you know persists. Obviously, I say there is no reason for excessive enthusiasm. It is present and we will have to wait and see. We will have to wait and see what happens hereafter. There are questions and other things that go beyond this issue. In fact, many reporters ask: What will happen in Cuba when the blockade is lifted? First, we don't think....[pauses] We don't believe that a blockade of 35 years, of so many years, will be lifted overnight. I think we must advance on other paths. We must seek other contacts. No one has thought of the blockade being lifted in that manner. We want it to be lifted. The media, however, ask: When the aggression and the blockade ends, will the war have ended? If we want to anticipate views, in my opinion more battles lie ahead. More complex battles will begin because the lifting of the blockade not only brings nutrition, not only permits us to buy food and medicine at cheaper costs, but it also brings another type of battle. It brings a much stronger ideological battle, a much more complicated battle. To tell the truth, we are usually better prepared for war than for peace. In fact, it means developing a new kind of thinking. This is where the questions begin. How big will the Cuban people's shock be when the North Americans arrive in Cuba. To be honest, the shock of the North Americans may be bigger when they arrive here and see that the people are not as they were depicted. If ever a people are so manipulated by information, it is the U.S. people. It would be fine if they arrive and see that the Cuba that was portrayed to them is not exactly Cuba as it really is. As far as being oriented, those who visit us will be more up to date than members of the Venceremos Brigade. Look, this is not Russia, which did not know Donald Duck but saw Gone with the Wind. [sentence as heard] Obviously here there is a level of information, of communication that extends beyond that. [end recording]

Robaina insisted on the need to show Cuba's true image in view of the ideological battle that is being waged internationally. In this sense, he stressed the role of the media.

[Begin Robaina recording] I believe the media must be assigned its role in the battle that is being waged. In this world, the war of image is being imposed. I don't want to read anything, but I have an article that many of you must have read. I don't want to waste time, but it refers to the war of image and the Cuban situation. It says that our battle is not the Bay of Pigs, in the arena of a big publicity war. In fact, today, the image abroad shows a country that is deteriorating. When a country is shown as deteriorating, it creates a motivation. When an image creates a motivation, this false image can give rise to any action sought to be carried out from abroad. It may or may not be true. This is the last paragraph and last page. It suffices to have the image created. For example, what have they tried to say about optic neuritis? They have said that the neuritis is caused by the people's nutrition problem. This is all the reason one needs to hurl all kinds of insults and attacks, as those we have been confronting. They have tried to get our pronouncement at all cost, asking if it is only optic neuritis or if it is nutrition, as if we were trying to hide sacred information and are not doing everything that we are doing. We believe it is worthwhile to think about how far we must go in response to this. I don't refer to the article, but to the image war. I think they are repeating themselves. Many of you know about the Gulf war, about the millions of actions, and you know how they were handled and manipulated. [end recording]

Alarcon on Human Rights, Social Work Regional Meeting

FL2705144093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The right to a decent life, education, health, employment, social security and assistance, rehabilitation, culture, sports, and recreation is the topic of the Sixth Regional Meeting on Social Work, Human Rights, Integrity, and Development, which is being held in Havana. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, gave us his opinion about the central topic in an exclusive interview.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I think that the idea of the meeting is the full meaning of human rights not only the dignity of mankind and the citizen, but also regarding development, and the wide gamut of the people's hopes, such as the right to life, education, health, etc. It must encompass so much because only in this manner can their lives be discussed fairly. The participants are social workers from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Therefore, they are closely involved with the social reality, to the practices of the countries in this region and they discussed these realities in comparison with what the Revolution has meant for Cuba, which is well known. The Mexican rights to assistance, in reality do not exist in practice or exist partially in the Central American region. If we were to talk now about truly dramatic cases, we could mention the repressions, the massacres in Guatemala, El Salvador, etc. The bloodshed has being ongoing for several years in the case of El Salvador and several decades in the regions of Guatemala.

I think that it is an important meeting because it is going to allow the participants to do a lot. I would say there are almost 200. They will be able to see the Cuban experiences on this subject, including: care for the elderly, children, and the handicapped; in short, the immense work that the Revolution has done in the social sphere. They will also be able to see how this work is done despite the great tension, difficulties, and problems as a result of the intensification of the Yankee blockade against Cuba. This is the most scandalous human rights violation of all. [end recording]

Clergymen Note U.S. Public Favors Embargo End

FL2705140093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A group of Cuban clergymen—including Reverend Raul Suarez, director of the Martin Luther King Center; Orestes Gonzalez, president of the Cuban Ecumenical Council; and Methodist Pastor Joe Ajo—returned today from the United States. The clergymen said they are convinced that U.S. evangelical churches as well as a great part of U.S. public favor the end of the blockade and peace between the two people.

For more than 10 days, the clergymen visited approximately 50 U.S. cities where they met with church leaders, congregations, congressmen, and Cuban, black, and Hispanic groups, who favor improving relations between the two countries.

President Abdelaziz Meets With CECE, PCC Delegation

FL2605183493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Noemi Benitez de Mendoza, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], gave Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic [Western Sahara], a message from the top Cuban leader, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

The Sahrawi president met with Benitez and the rest of the Cuban Government and Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] delegation, which is attending a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the armed fight and foundation of the Polisario Front.

The celebration culminated with a speech by President Abdelaziz, during a solemn assembly, in which several representatives of the solidarity movement with the Sahrawi cause also spoke.

Health Delegate to Caracas on 'Laboratory Virus' Theory

FL2605233093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] In Caracas, members of the health committees of Cuba's legislature and Venezuela's senate have exchanged experiences on the two countries' hospital and health-care systems. Dr. Carlos Dotres, member of the Permanent Health Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government, reported on the benefits of the [illness] prevention system in our country, based on the Family Doctor Program. Dotres said Cuba's population gets free medical care under the hospital system, even if a costly operation is involved, and that over 86 percent of the population is attended to by the family doctors.

The chairman and the deputy head of the Venezuelan senate's health committee, (Rafael Caravano) and (Rafael Casal) respectively, attended the meeting with the Cuban deputies.

Dr. Dotres told the Venezuelan senators that the epidemic neuropathy affecting our country appears to have multiple causes. The physician said it is not a contagious disease, nor is it due to nutritional problems, although some of the people affected have been found to have vitamin B-1 deficiencies. Dotres said [researchers] have already managed to isolate, in certain patients, a virus found in the encephalorachidian fluid—a virus which, judging by the characteristics of the epidemic, could possibly be a laboratory virus.

Dr. Dotres said that if poor nutrition were the cause of the epidemic neuropathy, the disease would be present

in many countries of Latin America and Africa, where hunger and malnutrition do indeed exist.

Electric Union Issues Press Release on Outages

FL2605231193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1939 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Electric Union informs the population that there were increased power outages throughout Cuba on 25 May because the generating units of the Diez de Octubre Thermoelectric Plant in Nuevitas went out of service because of a lack of fuel. Unit No. 3 of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Power Plant in Cienfuegos also went out of service, as was announced in the preceding communique.

This unit in the Pearl of the South went back into service last night, ahead of schedule, which will allow less rigorous outages on 26 and 27 May in the western part of Cuba.

According to the Electric Union press release, outages in the provinces from Ciego Avila to Guantanamo will continue at the present levels. The announcement adds that the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Plant in Matanzas will be taken out of service, as was announced earlier, as soon as the fuel situation is back to normal at the Diez de Octubre and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Thermoelectric Plants.

Finally, in the press release issued this afternoon, the Electric Union says the population will be kept informed as to the situation in the national electric system.

Ship Arrives With Food, Oil Derivatives From Mexico

FL2605145693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1405 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Cuban ship Pinar del Rio arrived at Havana City from the port of Tampico with a cargo of oil derivatives, rice, beans, and powdered milk donated by the Mexican people. The ship left on 24 May under the auspices of the promoter "Va Por Cuba," which in this manner is carrying out a second shipment of Mexican solidarity with a shipment valued at $250,000.

Inter-Caribeean Affairs

Jamaica's Prime Minister on Regional Integration

FL2605161593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1358 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 26, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Patrick Manning, has argued here that the export-led, free market policies, now fashionable in the world, provide a strong case for regional political and economic integration. Manning, whose 18-month-old government has been deepening economic liberalisation at home, said here that speed of action and a collaborative approach among Caribbean countries provided them with the best opportunity for success in a hostile environment. But although he did not elaborate on the point in a speech to the opening of the 18th annual convention of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), Manning suggested that political integration should be placed on the agenda, moving beyond the economic question that is now at the centre of most regional debates.

"I say to you that if the countries of the Caribbean get together and pursue a course of action based on their collaborative efforts, then the likelihood is that they will succeed," Manning told Caribbean intellectuals attending the five-day convention. "And therein lies a very strong and powerful case for political integration, not just economic integration."

Manning won immediate support for economic integration from Jamaica's foreign minister, Paul Robertson, who stopped short of a forthright endorsement of a political community. Robertson said that the regional trade and functional cooperation grouping, the Caribbean Community [Caricom], was a necessary part of the strategy to deal with the new international environment.

He added: "As a personal view, I have no doubt that we in this country made a fundamental error back in 1961. If we are able to deal with the economic process, I believe that the politics will take care of itself." The political federation of the British colonies in the West Indies collapsed in 1962 following Jamaica's decision to pull out after a referendum on the issue.

The Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister had placed his observation within the context of his rhetorical question of whether the world had the the capacity to "absorb the results of export-led policies" in all developing and developed countries.

Said he: "The answer to my mind is no. Therefore, it means that some countries will succeed and some will not."

In that scenario, he suggested, it would be "the early bird which will catch the fattest worm." It was against the background of the need to be among the "early birds" that his government decided last month to float its dollar, following earlier moves by Guyana and Jamaica.

"When Jamaica floated its currency two years ago, we took careful note of it in Trinidad and Tobago," Manning said. "If we waited too long in taking that course of action the fattest worm would go elsewhere."

Although Guyana has in some respects gone deeper into economic liberalisation than either country, developments in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, the grouping's largest economies, provide the momentum for much of the action in Caricom. Jamaica, which has since the late 1980's gone aggressively for market reforms, has taken the lead in steering the community in that direction, having influenced Caricom in lowering its common external tariff and removing other barriers to trade.

But while the governing People's National Party (PNP) in Jamaica has been emphatic in support for regional integration movement, it has made it clear that political federation is not on the agenda. Political union is strongly opposed by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Grenada

Parliament Passes Trades Act Despite Union Protest

FL2605010993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, May 25, CANA—The Grenada Parliament has passed the Trades Disputes Arbitration and Inquiry Act, amid a heavy police presence and trade union protest.

About 200 workers, mostly belonging to the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union (SWWU) and a sprinkling of other groups confronted police outside parliament in an attempt to pressure the government to shelve the bill.

Scuffles followed and the police, armed with truncheons, erected steel barricades and barbed wire fences to stop what was expected to be a noise-making session designed to disrupt the House, as was the case a week ago. While the placard-bearing, chanting protesters were being kept at bay, parliamentarians inside Parliament shelved all other business and passed the bill after six hours of debate.

"The bill is designed to solve problems, to bring people to solutions. They (trade union leaders) fear we are becoming the spokesman for the workers of this country," attorney general, Dr. Francis Alexis told Parliament as he led the bill through.

He noted that the bill could not be anti-worker since it was the first of its kind in Grenada that allowed for the re-instatement of a person fired for his trade union activities, or for claiming his right to any settlement awarded by the government-appointed tribunal.

Attorney general, Dr. Francis, arguing the bill was necessary in view of the present impasse at the main St. George's Port, after shippers and dock workers failed to reach agreement on a new wage package. Talks had been off and on for three years. The government had the support of its two back-benchers on an issue that has brought some division within the labour movement.

"Not every one is united on the port issue, but we are very united against this bill. It is anti-worker," a leading trade unionist told CANA as the crowd dwindled to about fifty.

Union boss, Chester Humphrey, told CANA a meeting of the trades union council was likely and warned a nationwide shut-down was one of the options.

"We thought we had given the government some goodwill by not proceeding to call a general strike as a response to this... But it's clear the government has not taken this good will into account," Humphrey said.

Passage of the bill is seen by analysts as a major triumph for Prime Minister Brathwaite. For their part, opposition parliamentarians stayed away from open condemnation of the bill, with former Prime Minister Ben Jones saying a mechanism was needed to solve the problem. But they agreed they were worried about the timing of the legislation.

"We need some form of mechanism to deal with the problem. But I think the government should wait to see what happens as the two sides begin to talk again," Jones said. Jones and his national party colleague Alleyne Walker, found themselves on the opposite sides of the fence as the bill, described by trade union supporters as "draconian," was passed easily.

Haiti

UN/OAS Envoy Mission Said To Fail; Options Noted

FL2605152893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Dante Caputo's sixth mission to Port-au-Prince has failed. The international mediator has suffered a new defeat in the 19-month old Haitian crisis. He arrived on 22 May at the head of a delegation which included Lawrence Pezzullo, representative of the U.S. secretary of state. The delegation held several meetings, notably with Prime Minister Marc Bazin, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and the military high command, and several representatives of the private sector.

We have learned from a source close to the private sector that Ambassador Charles Redman reportedly threatened members of the Haitian business sector, who had reservations about sending a multinational police force to Haiti and a mission aimed at training and professionalizing the Haitian Armed Forces.

The delegation met with military officials on two occasions, but to no avail. There was no success as far as President Aristide was concerned. Aristide did not request sending an international police force, according to Radio 16 December [in Miami] which is received in the Haitian capital. This news was confirmed by diplomatic sources in Port-au-Prince. The situation is getting complicated because it will be difficult to present a request before the UN Security Council for this plan in the absence of an agreement by the two opposing Haitian parties.

The next step may be the reinforcement of economic sanctions or a naval and air blockade against Haiti. According to a source, the United States and the international community will have to meet on this option, which is a mandatory procedure. This same source

explained that there has never been a question of military deployment in Haiti within the scope of a settlement to the crisis. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Leslie Alexander, during a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, stated that there will be no military intervention in Haiti.

A high ranking Haitian military official said during an interview to Signal FM that the next step consists of handing power over to the president of the Court of Cassation, Attorney Emile Jonassaint. This high ranking military official explained that this government will be given the task of reconciling the Haitian nation. While excluding the direct participation of the Haitian Army in the establishment of this government, he added that all tendencies and all parties will be part of this government. This military official does not seem to fear a possible reinforcement of international sanctions. He asserted that we have spent more than 19 months hemming and hawing over the embargo; then, let us impose our solution because the country is fed up with living under unconstitutionality.

Supreme Court President Reportedly To Head New Government

FL2605155393 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 May 93

[Italicized passage in Creole]

[Text] We have learned from a reliable source that the news of the transfer of power to the oldest judge at the Court of Cassation [Court President Emile Jonassaint] was a bombshell in government circles. Ministers reportedly have reproached the government for having concealed this information from them during a significant meeting of the Council of Ministers at the National Palace on 24 May.

Another source informed us that several ministers of the Bazin government will be part of the new national reconciliation government. A state employee allegedly stated: *We will not have time to escape; we must stay in the country.*According to another military official, the new government will be given the task of filling the vacuum caused by the absence of President Aristide, who will return when circumstances permit. The official explained that the new government will have to work on a basis for a program.

Bishops Reportedly Create Reconciliation Commission

FL2605161893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Conference of Haitian Bishops is reportedly working on the setting for a national reconciliation commission. The objective of this commission is to establish a path toward a national solution to the political crisis through the use of unity within the Haitian family.

According to the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY, which quoted a reliable source, this national reconciliation commission, whose authority would be recognized by the president of the Republic, the prime minister, the parliament, and the judicial power, is charged with being a major instrument in the future of a reconciliation based on justice for all.

When questioned by the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY about a possible collaboration between the bishops and Bazin's government, the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY source did not want to make any statements. Nothing was said about the presence of Prime Minister Bazin at a meeting of the Episcopal Conference on 21 May either.

CONAPOP Favors National Conference, Gourgues as PM

FL2605214393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] The National Confederation of People's Organizations [CONACOP] suggests a national conference among the principal protagonists in the crisis, including the Army, the presidential commission, the Parliament, and the private sector. CONACOP, which reportedly includes 70 groups, also denounced the behavior of the international community in the political crisis. Guilloto Francois filed a report on the press conference held by CONACOP.

[Begin Francois recording, in Creole] During a press conference on 25 May, CONACOP, which unites several grassroots and political organizations in the country, denounced the slowness of the international community in the Haitian crisis. CONACOP says the attitude of the OAS, the United Nations, and the United States in the Haitian political crisis clearly demonstrates that the international community has no concern for solving the crisis in Haiti. The organization claims an international police force will not change the situation in Haiti.

The organization points out that the civilian mission has not succeeded in creating respect for human rights in the country. CONACOP favors a national conference among the various protagonists involved in the Haitian crisis, excluding the Villa D'Acceuil government headed by Marc L. Bazin. CONACOP hopes for a consensus among the Father Aristide presidential commission, the Army, the private sector, and parliament. To CONACOP, only a unique solution can solve the political crisis in Haiti. CONACOP asserts that Dante Caputo and Lawrence Pezzullo are going back and forth under the pretext that the international community wants to solve Haiti's problem, while they are in contact with Bazin's government which is not even legally recognized by international institutions. [passage omitted]

CONACOP, an organization formed 20 months after the political crisis began, again renews its choice of attorney Gerard Gourgues. Gourges, according to the organization, enjoys the respect of the international community and is trusted by all sectors in the country to lead a

national concord government while awaiting the physical return of Father Aristide to Haiti. Attorney Gerard Gourgues must replace Marc Bazin as head of the national concord government which will satisfy the demands of the Haitian population. CONACOP intends to meet with several sectors, including the Father Aristide presidential commission and the country's private sector, within the scope of succeeding in the overthrow of Bazin's government and the return of constitutional order. [end recording]

Latortue, Volel React to Call for National Conference

FL2605222993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 May 93

[Italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] Attorney Francois Latortue [former justice minister under the National Council of Government and leader of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti, MODELH, formerly Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PRDH] might participate in the national conference. He appreciates the idea. Nevertheless, he continues to support former President Nerette who has been labelled unconstitutional by the current government. We are going to first hear the reaction of MODEL-PRDH, represented by Attorney Francois Latortue, its secretary general.

[Begin Latortue recording] In principle, of course I appreciate the idea, the way the thing is organized. *I am happy with the way the idea is presented. I believe it is the duty of all Haitians to participate and give their opinions, in view of the situation. Obviously, you know there are many things for which I reproached the consensus government, which was not the result of a true consensus, and which did not have a constitutional basis. I believe that in this case, if the organization is organized in accordance with specific standards; that is, if it is not rigged, but composed in a sincere and honest manner, I believe that all Haitians should participate, give their verdict, and especially express their opposition to the foreign occupation of the country. This would be not only unfair and illegal, but it would also have terrible, deep, and negative consequences for the future of this country and for our intellectual youth, as it could even constitute a stigma for our youth.* [end recording]

In the opinion of Eddy Volel [leader of the Christian Democratic Assembly, RDC] Dante Caputo's sixth mission is not a failure. Only crooked wheelers and dealers would participate in the national conference proposed by the consensus government.

[Begin Volel recording] *As for the national conference that they pretend to hold, only crooked wheelers like themselves and silly people will participate in it. What serious person will sit with people who staged a coup d'etat, who held false elections, who appointed fake senators and deputies, who is leading a fake parliament under fake laws, who have issued fake money, with people who are fake leaders and who are giving false information. We in the RDC tell the people not to trust Bazin and Cedras who are not telling the truth and who do not like the country. The time of truth is not far away. Liberation is due. The people's wish will triumph in spite of the bandits.* [end recording]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Main Opposition Party Pickets Parliament

FL2605012593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2131 GMT 25 May 93

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 25, CANA—The main opposition St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) picketed Parliament Tuesday to draw attention to what the party's leadership said is widespread dissatisfaction with the New Democratic Party (NDP) government. Fewer than 100 persons took part, something SVLP leader Stanley John attributed to a reluctance by the public to identify with protest action of this kind and the involvement of rural-based supporters in banana harvesting.

"Spend More Money on Health, "Farmers Need More Markets for Their Produce," "Mitchell Must Go," read some of the slogans on placards carried by the protesters who sang songs and shouted for the holding of general elections and the replacement of the two-term NDP government.

John told CANA the problems which St. Vincent and the Grenadines faced today were as a result of a failure by Prime Minister James Mitchell's administration to continue building on policies of the SVLP which lost the government to the NDP in 1984 elections.

"Everything almost in public policy that has augured well for development in this country... Are policies of the Labour Party. Much of that was arrested under the Mitchell administration where Mitchell felt that he should deliberately undermine what the Labour Party was trying to do by way of proving his own worth, and this is why Vincentians are faced with the serious decline in the social services and in the economy," John contended.

John said criticism that the Labour Party was not putting forward an alternative programme was unfair, adding that most of the policies outlined in their 1989 manifesto continued to be relevant and would be built on. He said the party leadership was heartened by favourable comments of persons who watched the picket. He said the process of mobilisation would continue.

"We (will) continue our programme of mobilising the people, of focusing public attention on the things that are wrong in the country and identifying with people, because we don't have to tell people about a lot of these things, they know them," John said. "What we are doing is to identify with people and help them to focus their dissatisfaction and their frustration and to give them a sense of hope... That in due course these matters can be dealt with in a positive and vigorous fashion by a government that cares." The picket took place as the House of Assembly met for the first time since the presentation of the government's 1993 budget last December.

Government Issues Communique on Events in Guatemala

PA2605142493 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 May 93

[Communique issued by the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat in Mexico City on 25 May]

[Text] The Government of Mexico expresses its deep concern over the events that occurred on the morning of 25 May in the sisterly nation of Guatemala. The government is closely following developments in Guatemala.

Mexico reiterates its invariable commitment with the constitutional systems of government and its respect for the democratic forms of political coexistence.

The countries of Central America in the last few years have made progress, with great effort and sacrifice, in the consolidation of peace and democracy and have begun to lay strong foundations for their economic and social development.

The programs of economic integration achieved by them and those that are being currently negotiated with the Group of Three are fundamental for the future of the region and all Latin America. Thus, any event altering the atmosphere to promote the aforesaid processes is particularly unfavorable.

In keeping with the tradition of Mexican foreign policy of respect for the principle of nonintervention and the norms of institutional law, our country, Mexico, considers that it is exclusively up to Guatemalans to resolve its internal problems and find ways for returning to institutional order.

Blanco Reports Complementary Agreements Negotiations

PA2605162293 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Ana Cristina Pelaez]

[Text] Herminio Blanco, head of the Mexican negotiating team on the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, has denied that the complementary agreements are a means of cosmeticizing the negotiations, especially in regard to labor issues. Upon returning from the third round of negotiations on NAFTA complementary agreements in Ottawa, Canada, Blanco reported to senators and deputies in nine different legislative commissions. He said that the basic texts of the NAFTA complementary agreements on environment and labor issues had already been reached. Blanco reported that Mexico, Canada, and the United States will establish commissions to check the compliance of the agreements and to resolve environment and labor conflicts. He noted that there are only two matters in which differences exist:

[Begin recording] [Blanco] The first one is in the structure of the commission and the second is on consultations and conflict solutions. Those are the two issues that are being discussed.

[Unidentified reporter] Only....

[Blanco, interrupting] Thank you. Those are the only issues pending. We have agreed on everything else. [end recording]

Herminio Blanco explained to the Institutional Revolutionary Party, National Action Party, and Party of the Democratic Revolution Legislators that Mexico and Canada have very similar positions and this allowed him to assure that the negotiations will be completed in the coming weeks.

[Begin Blanco recording] NAFTA and the complementary agreements can, thus, go into effect on 1 January 1994. [end recording]

He also told legislators that the Mexican Government is not negotiating superficial agreements.

[Begin Blanco recording] As the president of the Republic ordered, those negotiations are carried out with total respect to our labor and environmental laws and according to three basic principles: to defend our national sovereignty; not to reopen NAFTA; and to keep the complementary agreements from becoming protectionist measures. [end recording]

Blanco reported that, similar to the NAFTA negotiations, the cost of lobbying or of negotiating the complementary agreements amounted to 42 million pesos. The official explained that technical, grammatical, and typographical errors had been corrected and tariff percentages had been revised, but not on the original NAFTA text.

El Salvador

Front Fighters Jailed for Killing U.S. Advisers Freed

PA2505184393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The two Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front—FMLN—fighters jailed for killing two U.S. advisers after downing their helicopter were released yesterday, Jorge Melendez, member of the FMLN political party, has reported. Melendez said that the former fighters—known by their aliases Aparicio and Porfirio—who had been in jail since March 1992, when they surrendered to the judicial authorities, received the benefits of the general amnesty law recently approved by the Legislative Assembly. The two fighters were released after it was proven that the U.S. advisers did not have diplomatic status. Chinameca Judge Dinora Andrade confirmed the release of the two FMLN fighters after it was confirmed that the dead U.S. advisers were accredited in Honduras and not El Salvador. The two U.S. advisers were killed in January 1991 when their helicopter was shot down by the FMLN. The incident occurred in Lolotique, San Miguel Department.

ERP Denies Involvement in Managua Explosion

PA2605174093 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The Peoples Revolutionary Army [ERP], one of the five organizations in the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] political party, explained in a communique on 25 May that its top leader, Joaquin Villalobos, is not any way involved in the explosion of an arsenal in Nicaragua. The ERP denied news reports to the effect that the weapons that exploded in Managua were owned by the ERP. Villalobos is secretary general of the ERP, which is a member of the FMLN.

The ERP also expressed concern over the serious incident at dawn on 23 May in which one person was killed and seven others injured, and pointed out that the incident should be investigated to establish who is responsible.

Guatemala

Serrano Blames Crisis on Drug Traffickers

PA2605142793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0542 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Mexico City, 25 May (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano has announced that on 26 May he will seek an agreement with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal on a timetable to restore institutional order and he blamed groups linked to drug trafficking for the crisis facing his country.

Serrano, on the evening of 25 May, said his government found no alternatives, and thus, "it had no option but to" stage "an institutional coup" that led him to dissolve the Congress and the Supreme Court on 25 May.

"I spent two months thinking of ways to evade the blackmail to which I had been subjected. I thought about this over and over again, but unfortunately, I found no way out," Serrano told the "24 Hours" Program on private Mexican television.

"I will meet with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal early on 26 May to reach an agreement on a possible timetable to restore institutionality," Serrano added. Hours earlier he announced that he would call constituent elections in less than 60 days.

Serrano assured that he will transfer power on 16 January 1996 at the end of his constitutional term. "I do not plan to stay one more day, I did not do this to perpetuate myself in power," he added.

The president pointed out that "the Army has basically supported the decision" he made. Serrano added that he briefed the military on the country's situation on the evening of 24 May.

"They knew, through military intelligence, much of what was happening and many commanders were concerned about the level of forced or induced destabilization promoted by mysterious forces," Serrano said.

"I am a true democrat. I am trying to restore constitutional order as soon as possible," he added.

Serrano said the "blackmail, pressure, and coercion, this plot against me, intensified tremendously after 10 May" because his party won the municipal elections with a majority vote.

The president did not identify the source of the plot, but assured that they "became desperate and started in earnest to cause me problems," and "we had no other option."

Serrano recalled that very serious disturbances left one dead and one injured in one week. "We had to put an end to that," he said. Serrano added now "the capital city is calm and the people are happy and supportive of the government's decisions."

The president thinks the movement against him was generated "by what I call the mafias" and it was partly "perpetrated by drug traffickers" and thus, the measures that were applied "and any other major measures" are "worthwhile."

Serrano warned the democracies of Latin America that they "will have to take the drug-trafficking problem very seriously."

"Drug trafficking is not simply the process of transporting cocaine from South to North America, it has political goals and participates openly and it permeates

the media, political parties, and state institutions to create problems," he added.

The president reported cocaine valued at "nearly the entire national budget" was seized in his country last year.

"This is creating serious distortions in our society and we think that they should be treated seriously. It is not easy to break structures when they have consolidated and handle any amount of money," Serrano added.

Serrano Continues 'Self-Inflicted Coup'

Media Censorship Imposed

PA2605152893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1406 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan daily newspapers did not circulate on 26 May in light of the censorship imposed on all the media following President Jorge Serrano's "self-inflicted coup."

Newspaper sources have told ACAN-EFE that the printing plant of the daily SIGLO VEINTIUNO, a newspaper that has strongly criticized the Serrano government, has been heavily guarded by security forces.

On 25 May SIGLO VEINTIUNO published a special edition censoring the actions of the president, who partially suspended the constitution, dissolved the Congress, and removed the members of the Supreme Court of Justice, among other things.

The other two important newspapers that did not circulate on 26 May are EL GRAFICO, which belongs to Jorge Carpio, leader of the Guatemalan opposition, and the conservative PRENSA LIBRE.

Meanwhile, Carlos Gonzalez, editor of the evening newspaper LA HORA, has said that the paper will circulate on 26 May. Gonzalez added that the newspaper's printing plant has not been occupied by the security forces.

The radio stations have been in network since the "self-inflicted coup" and cannot carry their scheduled newscasts.

Channel 11 [Guatemala City Teleonce Television] stopped broadcasting on the night of 25 May while Channel Three [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala] and Channel Seven [Guatemala City Televisiete Television] continue to broadcast, but are subject to censorship.

The situation throughout the country is apparently normal and Guatemala City continues to remain calm.

Supreme Court Judges Removed

PA2605192493 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 1844 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] We have important information for the people of Guatemala. The application of selective justice has ended, President Jorge Serrano Elias said, upon announcing the total change of magistrates who form the judiciary.

The Supreme Court of Justice, whose magistrates were elected in a process marked by irregularities, has carried out justice in a selective manner and this is why it was decided to remove all Court magistrates, the president stated. This provision will permit us to redirect the application of justice to strengthen the state of law. In this regard, the Supreme Court of Justice did not voice any intention to settle important cases.

The government, President Serrrano Elias asserted, is taking a great effort to bring criminals before justice courts, but they have taken more time in entering jail than in being released by judges and the very Court.

During the current administration, the president added, the judiciary agency received more than 200 million quetzals, which have not represented an achievement for the population. This year, the Supreme Court of Justice asked Congress for 154 million quetzals, which represents five times more than what it received in 1991.

Meetings, Demonstrations Banned

PA2605213193 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 2006 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala Governor Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez announced on 25 May that all political meetings are banned. The governor said that the ban will be lifted after the constitutional guarantees, suspended in accordance with the temporary measures announced on 25 May and promulgated on 26 May, are reinstated. Gordillo Martinez added that the ban includes all demonstrations, strikes, and other public protest activities.

Regarding social, cultural, scientific, and sports meetings, Gordillo Martinez said that these are not banned; however, a written permit will have to be requested from the Office of the Governor prior to the meeting. In conclusion, the governor added that any gathering of more than three persons, other than family, will be considered a meeting.

School Schedules Issued

PA2705031793 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 0020 GMT 27 May 93

[Communique issued by the Guatemalan Education Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] 1. On 27 May, the buildings where the National Central School for Boys holds its morning, afternoon,

and evening sessions, as well as those of the school for young girls' basic education, Maria Luisa Samayoa Lanuza, and those of the National School for Commercial Science where its afternoon and evening sessions are held, will be turned over to their respective authorities.

2. The directors of the aforementioned schools, as well as the faculties, will be responsible for the students' actions as well as for the school buildings.

On 31 May, education activities will be normalized at the aforementioned schools for which the following will be taken into account:

a. Every student must go to the school accompanied by his or her parents.

b. The parents, as well as the students, once again must sign a commitment to study in front of the pertinent school authorities and the corresponding education supervisor.

4. [Number as heard] To guarantee order in the normalization of education activities in the aforementioned schools, the following schedule will be followed:

Monday, 31 May, from 0830 to 1230: National Central School for Boys, ninth grade [number as heard]—morning session; Maria Luisa Samayoa Lanuza School, basic education for young girls, ninth grade—morning session. From 1300 to 1800: National Central School for Boys, ninth grade junior high—afternoon session; the National School of Commercial Sciences, fourth year accountant—afternoon session.

Tuesday, 1 June, from 0730 to 1230: National Central School for Boys, 10th grade [number as heard], and Maria Luisa Samayoa Lanuza School, 10th grade—morning session. From 1300 to 1800: National Central School for Boys, 10th grade and freshman year high school—afternoon session; National School for Commercial Sciences, fifth year accountant—afternoon session.

Wednesday, 2 June, from 0730 to 1230: National Central School for Boys, freshman year—morning session; Maria Luisa Samayoa Lanuza School, freshman year—morning session. From 1300 to 1800: National Central School for Boys, sophomore and junior years—afternoon session; National School for Commercial Science, 6th year accountant—afternoon session.

Thursday, 3 June, from 0730 to 1230: National Central School for Boys, sophomore year—morning session.

Friday, 4 June, from 0730 to 1230: National Central School for Boys, junior year—morning session.

Evening sessions will begin on Monday, 31 May.

We hereby report that the education activities in the capital as well as in the departments continues under completely normal conditions. Parents should therefore continue to send their children to school and teachers should attend their classes.

6. [number as heard] Parents are urged to give their support to the Education Ministry in completing successfully the 1993 school year.

Government Denies Curfew Rumor

PA2705005393 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 2355 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Your attention please. The Guatemalan Government advises citizens that the speculation on whether a curfew will be established throughout the country is totally false. A curfew will not be established. Citizens can rest assured that they can circulate freely throughout the national territory.

Government Obstructs Broadcasts by U.S., Spanish Stations

PA2605224293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2001 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government obstructed Spanish Television (TVE) and U.S. Cable News Network (CNN) correspondents' satellite broadcasts, it was reported on 26 May to ACAN-EFE by journalists.

Government officials demanded on 26 May that a TVE news team subject their recordings to censorship before authorizing their broadcasts to Madrid by satellite; and the government banned the inclusion of the opposition's opinions about the situation in the country, where President Jorge Serrano carried out a self-inflicted coup on 25 May.

CNN correspondent Fernanda Castejon told ACAN-EFE she was sending a dispatch to Atlanta from the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise facilities on 26 May when the authorities forbid her to continue the transmission after some footage showed opposition protests. "I decided to send my material by other means on 26 May given the situation," added the journalist, who is a Guatemalan citizen.

Moreover, Spanish journalist Javier Obach, who usually works in El Salvador and was sent to Guatemala by TVE to cover President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup, told ACAN-EFE an official government spokesman notified him he could only include official information in his reports. Obach added the authorities denied him access to the satellite if his recordings had not been previously approved by the government.

Serrano imposed official censorship on all media and on 26 May the police surrounded all newspaper facilities in the capital, to prevent their circulation after their refusal to allow any censors.

The police arrested Freddy Lopez, correspondent of the Mexican newspaper EL UNIVERSAL, because he tried to take out a copy of the forbidden edition of the daily newspaper PRENSA LIBRE.

National Police Arrest Mexican Reporter

PA2605192293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1823 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (NOTIMEX)—Sources from a local newspaper have disclosed that Mexican journalist Fredy Lopez, correspondent of the newspaper EL UNIVERSAL, was arrested by the National Police in Guatemala City on 26 May.

According to a source of the newspaper PRENSA LIBRE, Lopez was arrested after he interviewed Mario Castro, PRENSA LIBRE editor, and after a copy of that newspaper was seized from him.

As part of the so-called "constitutional coup" on 25 May, the government prohibited the printing of the country's three newspapers, including PRENSA LIBRE. Meanwhile, an official network controls radio and television.

The sources indicated that Lopez, who also works for the Central American magazine PANORAMA, was arrested at 1117 (1717 GMT) and is being held inside a patrol car.

PANORAMA executives have begun efforts to obtain his release while Lopez' colleagues in the national and foreign media asked for the intervention of the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala.

Reporter Released

PA2605215693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2008 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—Mexican journalist Fredy Lopez, a correspondent for EL UNIVERSAL, was set free on 26 May, three hours after having been arrested by the National Police for "altering public order."

Lopez, who is also a correspondent for the PANORAMA economic weekly edited in Costa Rica, was arrested near the offices of the daily PRENSA LIBRE.

After a short interrogation at the National Police 2d Corps in the presence of Manuel Moran, press attache of the Mexican Embassy, the journalist was set free.

Lopez told ACAN-EFE that he was arrested for carrying a copy of PRENSA LIBRE, which did not circulate on 26 May due to the censure imposed on the media after the self-inflicted coup headed by President Jorge Serrano on 25 May.

The issues of that morning newspaper, as well as those of SIGLO VEINTIUNO and EL GRAFICO, were confiscated by the government for not heeding the censorship order.

Lopez is the first foreign correspondent to be arrested temporarily by the security forces after the disruption of constitutional order.

Ministers, Politicians, Social Groups React to Coup

Minister Defends Coup Decision

PA2705043193 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 0236 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Guatemalan people have been moving about freely, without any restrictions, and the security forces are working to protect the citizens. Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval has reported the following:

[Begin recording] I wish to tell all of the Guatemalan people that they should remain calm, that they should rest assured that we are trying to do things very well so that at long last an atmosphere of peace, tranquility, safety, and—above all—unity will prevail in Guatemala. The situation is calm, everything is in control. We have worked within the framework of the law, because we believe that we will be able to build the Guatemala we all deserve and for which we have all fought so much.

Thus, I believe that all Guatemalans should rest assured that we are now living in an era of peace and we have a better future ahead for Guatemala. We are already moving ahead to the future, and firmly believe that in a short period of time all of us will be able to say that we are proud to live in this country, because it is a land of peace, promise, brotherhood, and unity. [end recording]

With regard to the traditional festivities that are held in the various towns of the country, the government minister said:

[Begin recording] The only thing that needs to be done is for the organizers of an event to file a request with the respective governor's office. The departmental governors have been instructed to process these requests as soon as possible, giving all Guatemalans the opportunity to continue their daily activities in a normal fashion. We want to give all Guatemalans the tranquility they need, particularly in social, cultural, and sports activities. [end recording]

On the other hand, the government minister also referred to the right the Guatemalan citizens have to move about freely throughout the nation.

[Begin recording] All Guatemalans have the right to move about freely throughout Guatemala. The measures we have adopted all seek to strengthen the liberties of the Guatemalans, who are acting within the framework of their rights. [end recording]

Government Official Explains Action

PA2705042193 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 0041 27 May 93

[Interview with Guillermo Pacheco, an official from the Attorney General's Office, by unidentified reporter at the Presidential Palace in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] [Reporter] The Guatemalan Government has issued temporary government norms, which present a series of modifications for the people's everyday life. We have invited Mr. Guillermo Pacheco, who will briefly evaluate the true meaning of these temporary government norms and how they affect the lives of the people. Mr. Pacheco, how do these temporary government norms affect the people?

[Pacheco] Good evening. I believe it is very good for the people of Guatemala to be informed about the changes that occurred on 25 May. I also believe it is important for the government to clarify the legal provisions issued on 25 May as part of the temporary government norms, in order to keep the general public well informed. The government should inform the people about these norms and their scope, in order to ensure that the information the people receive is not misinterpreted or misrepresented by those who disagree or are not comfortable with the temporary norms the government has implemented. This I believe is highly important. To that effect, I am willing to explain those norms that you think are appropriate.

[Reporter] Article 1 states that the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala remains valid and in effect. However, it was reported that there are some articles that have in fact been changed. Which of the articles that affect the people have been changed?

[Pacheco] Specifically those directly affecting the people and those that have been misrepresented and misinterpreted. People think constitutional guarantees were suspended and a curfew put into effect, so it is good for us to clarify that there is no curfew; there is no specific time when people can move around, and no guarantees have been suspended. Allow me to read Article 2 of the temporary government norms which says: Human rights which guarantee the Guatemalan people's life, physical safety, and patrimonial safety must be fully respected.

The articles of the Constitution that could be subject to misinterpretation are Article 5 regarding freedom of movement; Article 6 regarding legal arrest; Article 9 regarding the interrogation of prisoners; Article 23 that refers to the inviolability of homes; and Article 27 that refers to the right of asylum. In addition, we have Article 37 regarding the right to reunion and demonstration, and Article 35 which refers to freedom of expression.

[Reporter] Can a state of siege, as you have explained here, be imposed?

[Pacheco] It could be imposed. I could be imposed, but it has not been at this time and the government is not considering doing so. What we must make clear here is that there is no state of siege and the government is not thinking of imposing it. There is no curfew, so we do not have a specific time to be on the streets. You can see that there are people in the street at all hours, and there is no intention of enforcing a curfew.

[Reporter] What is the situation of the laws, about which the people are most concerned, that protect our civil rights?

[Pacheco] The laws governing civil rights and unconstitutionality were not totally repealed, as is the case with the Constitution. [sentence as heard] Only certain articles and paragraphs were affected, which I would be glad to detail later.

[Reporter] Could you describe some of these items, such as the fact that there is no state of siege in effect, there is no curfew, people can move about freely, and so on, which you consider important for the people to know?

[Pacheco] Of course. As I said before, of the articles that will probably affect the general public, I would like to address Article 5. Article 5 of the Constitution, which refers to freedom of action, states that all individuals have the right to do anything not prohibited by law. No one is obliged to obey orders that have no legal grounds and have not been issued in accordance with the law. No one shall be persecuted for his/her opinions or for acts that do not violate the law. This article on freedom of action was suspended by the temporary government norms. I think what it says about freedom of action is very clear. This does not mean that all constitutional guarantees have been suspended or that there is a curfew in effect, which is the important part of this article and of Article 6 on the legal arrest. Article 6 states that no one may be detained or placed under arrest, except for the commission of a crime or fault and only in compliance with an arrest warrant issued by the competent authorities in accordance with the law. This one is also suspended, according to the temporary government norms. Where does the people's confusion come from? New laws will have to be promulgated. The president is about to appoint a new chief justice for the Supreme Court along with the other magistrates, who will regulate the suspension of these articles.

[Reporter] Mr. Pacheco: It would be wise for the people to realize that not the entire Constitution has been modified. I feel that should be established very clearly. I have another question. When the modifications to the Constitution are made, will the ones that have not been changed now be left in effect in the new Constitution, or will the entire Constitution be changed when a constituent assembly is convoked?

[Pacheco] Well, to answer your first question, I want to say that not the entire Constitution was suspended. Only certain articles of the Constitution were suspended, and this was specified clearly in the temporary measures issued by the government.

Later, once the president of the Republic has convoked a constituent assembly and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has decided on the date this is to be done, the Constitution will be thoroughly analyzed and amended. In other words, the fact certain articles have been suspended does not mean that they will be revised. The

same applies for those articles that have not been suspended now. This does not mean that they will not be revised. The Constitution of the Republic will be revised completely.

[Reporter] I have another question. I listened to a commentary a few minutes ago that made me laugh. Two persons were wondering if people are prohibited from walking down the Guatemala City streets at a certain time of the night, let us say 2100? It would be wise to clarify to the people that this is not banned, and that people are free to walk through the streets in groups of three or four.

[Pacheco] No, this is not prohibited. As I said earlier, if there had been something like a coup d'etat, then this would probably.... [pauses] I mean, this would be banned. As I also said, a state of siege or a curfew is not under consideration. Therefore, people are free to walk down the streets.

The truth is that Article 33 concerning the right to hold meetings or rallies has been suspended, and I think we must be very clear about this.

It was previously established that the right to hold peaceful meetings, without anyone bearing firearms, is in effect. Rights to hold meetings and public demonstrations cannot be restricted, diminished, or curtailed, and the law will regulate this with the sole purpose of guaranteeing public order. This is what has been suspended. In other words, there cannot be demonstrations, and there cannot be political meetings for holding demonstrations.

Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic refers to freedom of expression. That article has been, in fact, suspended, and for the time being the newspapers are being censored, so that the people will be well informed. The problem is that there is bad information, and what we seek is to.... [pauses] it is not that the government does not want the people to know anything about the situation. Censorship is being carried out so that there will not be a misinterpretation of the situation. Article 35 has been suspended. Nonetheless, the law on freedom of expression has not been suspended.

[Reporter] To conclude this interview, we would like for you to remind the Guatemalan people again that the situation has not really changed much. The people enjoy practically all of their guarantees. Just a few of them have been suspended, particularly those who call for public disorders. The people enjoy their freedom and their guarantees.

[Pacheco] Of course, I am once again going to read Article 2 of the temporary measures by the government that specifies: Human rights that guarantee the lives and properties of the Guatemalans must be respected fully. I also want to emphasize that there is no curfew or state of siege. In other words, freedom of movement is not being restricted.

For example, you asked me if people were free to move about the streets. There is no specific hour when people cannot circulate in the streets, and the citizens' guarantees have not been suspended. In other words, there are certain variations to certain articles; some articles of the Constitution have been suspended, and in due time—as the president of the Republic said—a term not to exceed 60 days, he will be convoking a constituent assembly so that we can return to a state in which the entire Constitution will be valid. Right now, only certain articles of the Constitution have been suspend.

[Reporter] We thank you for your contributions and clarifications to the people who have been somewhat confused about the current situation. Thank you very much, Mr. Pacheco, and we look forward to talking to you again.

People Reportedly Indifferent

PA2605150693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0714 GMT 26 May 93

[Report by Emilio Crespo]

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (EFE)—President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup has been generally repudiated by the country's politicians, personalities, and institutions, but the population reacted to it with indifference and the military has kept alarmingly silent.

The Constitutional Court, one of the institutions dissolved by Serrano on 24 May, has continued to meet clandestinely. The Court challenged the president by declaring null and void the decrees that dissolved the Congress and the Judicial Branch and suspended 40 articles of the Constitution.

Serrano, who gained access to power democratically in 1991 for a five-year term, cut short Guatemala's longest democratic experience in nearly half a century by taking dictator's powers upon himself.

According to several political sources, the reasons for his action are unclear, although he and his associates justified it by saying it was necessary to tackle the country's problems and overcome the country's "ungovernableness."

In political and local journalists' circles, however, it is believed that the president might have decided to dissolve the Congress to preclude an accusation against him or a political trial for corruption.

Serrano staged a self-inflicted coup only two weeks after his party, the Solidarity Action Movement, a conservative organization he himself created six years ago, emerged the winner in the national municipal elections.

In those elections, Serrano's party, which was a minority in the parliament, received 37.7 percent of the vote, but 70 percent of the registered voters abstained.

The population received with indifference the news of the president's self-inflicted coup. On the streets, people

were more concerned over the country's situation and probable violence than over the deputies' or magistrates' fates.

The Guatemalan legislative branch, whose budget has been transferred to public hospitals, was the scene of several scandals in recent years as the result of reported contraband and corruption. According to several polls of opinion, the branch's credibility was small.

After the announcement of the institutional coup staged by Serrano, who reported his decrees in a message broadcast to the country over a radio and television network, calm and normalcy prevailed in the city's streets, where the number of police was hardly greater than usual.

During the night, however, the city's streets were empty earlier than usual, apparently because of the people's fear of the effects of the political situation on the nation.

After several student and labor demonstrations, where one person died, Guatemala was calm on 25 May. Union organizations did not stage their planned antigovernment marches to protest the economic situation.

The military, which has become the leading power base in the country under the president's protection, were not seen on the streets either. Unlike in other coups, there were no men in uniform in the media or in public buildings.

It was the police that held several magistrates and other officials in their homes, and which stood guard in front of the dissolved state branches' buildings.

The military's only opinion in Serrano's favor was a military spokesman's brief statement expressing the Armed Forces' obedience to Serrano as Armed Forces commander in chief.

According to several political opposition sources, the future of Serrano and his country depend on the stand of the military, who has not played any visible role in this self-inflicted coup despite the frequency with which they have seized power by force in the past.

On 25 May, Serrano was condemned by an overwhelming number of international organizations and countries for his self-inflicted coup. In Guatemala, the general repudiation included businessmen, unions, and popular organizations, as well as various political parties, the Church, personalities, and professional associations.

Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio, who fled from his home for fear of being arrested, faced Serrano, just as the Constitutional Court did, and warned, so far unsuccessfully, that Serrano should restore democracy.

Social Groups Comment

PA2705000393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2203 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 26 May (NOTIMEX)—The Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] today discarded the possibility of calling an election to create a constituent assembly within a short time. Meanwhile, jurists rejected the legal grounds the Guatemalan president invoked to issue his measures. TSE President Arturo Herbruger stated that the tribunal would face difficulties in carrying out the elections within 60 days, because such an endeavor would require at least four months to organize.

President Jorge Serrano Elias visited the TSE to request that elections be called within 60 days to create a National Constituent Assembly, which would restore the country's institutionality. [passage omitted]

The Center for the Defense of the Constitution [Centro para la defensa de la constitucion] (Cedecon) affirmed that no articles of the Constitution authorize President Serrano to take the measures he has and to concentrate the powers of government under the presidency. Cedecon maintains that "the validity and effectiveness of the Constitution is guaranteed under any situation of force. Therefore, under no circumstances could this justify the measures taken by Serrano Elias."

The Guatemalan Association of Lawyers and Notary Publics [Colegio de Abogados y Notarios de Guatemala] expressed its "total rejection" of the temporary partial suspension of constitutional guarantees and the dissolution of the Judicial and Legislative Branches. [passage omitted quoting Serrano's 25 May speech]

The Guatemalan Association of Lawyers and Notary Publics indicated that "none of the articles of the Constitution, not even those invoked by the president, grant such authority" to suspend the effects and validity of the Constitution itself.

According to Article 44, argued the Association of Lawyers and Notary Publics, "all legislative, administrative, and executive actions that diminish, restrict or misinterpret the rights and liberties granted by the Constitution are null and void." [passage omitted]

Cabrera Condemns Decision

PA2605141693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 May 93

[Telephone interview with Alfonso Cabrera, secretary general of Guatemalan Christian Democracy, DCG, in Guatemala City by unidentified station reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [First Reporter] Good morning Mr. Cabrera. President Jorge Serrano Elias stated that the Guatemalan people are happy about his decision to suspend

Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Court and to suspend some constitutional articles. Are you happy about this?

[Cabrera] Not at all. The Christian Democrats were the first to regret these measures, which break the constitutional process in Guatemala. We think this means a big setback in the possibilities of building the democratic model for which the Guatemalans have been struggling for many years. Our country has paid a high price in human lives, effort, distress, tragedy, and terror in the endeavor to build a concerted democratic model in which all Guatemalans can be protagonists of our destiny. Despite the defects of our democracy and our many problems, I do not think this decision was the correct one. I think the president and his administration should have had more imagination and improved the mechanisms of communications in Guatemalan society before carrying out this break in the constitutional process. I do not share the view that the Guatemalan people are rejoicing over this action. The Guatemalans are stoic people who do not rise up to fight. They will only do so when they have no other choice. In no way can it be said that the people are satisfied, much less happy.

[Second reporter] What is known about the congressional leaders who are reportedly under house arrest and the Supreme Court members who are reportedly holding clandestine sessions?

[Cabrera] I was concerned about their personal safety on 25 May. I contacted the Christian Democrats throughout the world and the international democratic organizations to demand their solidarity and concern about the safety of these Guatemalan leaders. On the afternoon of 25 May, I was able to visit them, with the exception of the human rights ombudsman [Ramiro De Leon Carpio] who evaded the cordon around his house. His whereabouts are unknown. He has practically gone into hiding. The Supreme Court president and the National Congress president are in their houses, although they are under some police control.

[First reporter] Will the parties that oppose President Serrano's decision urge the people to civil disobedience?

[Cabrera] We are establishing mechanisms of communication and coordination, not only with the political parties, but also with the national business, trade union, peasant, professional, and church sectors because any decision must be agreed upon by all sectors. For the time being, we have declared ourselves in permanent session and we are observing the development of events. I cannot announce any decision. Sometime this afternoon, we will probably hold another meeting to evaluate the development of events.

Tribunal Considers New Elections

PA2705001893 Guatemala City Radio Networks in Spanish 2311 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Arturo Herbruger Asturias, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE], accompanied by other magistrates, held a news conference following a meeting with President Jorge Serrano Elias. Arturo Herbruger said the president briefed them on the decisions announced to the Guatemalan people. The decisions include the dissolution of the Congress and the Supreme Court. President Serrano Elias told them that he will send a proposal to the TSE asking it to convoke the election of a constituent assembly.

The Guatemalan president's proposal will be considered and resolved by the magistrates, as they have done on previous occasions, he said. The TSE is fully integrated and none of its members have resigned. We are on the verge of completing the electoral process and can hardly leave the process incomplete, the TSE president added.

The 9 May elections have not been affected at all by the decisions made by Serrano, Herbruger explained. The elections were held and the citizens went to the polls when the current restrictions known to all did not exist. All the votes have been received and only final certifications in some departments are pending. Herbruger said that the TSE will study the president's proposal as soon as they receive it. He said the TSE magistrates cannot state their opinions because if they did so they would be disqualifying themselves and would not be able to participate in resolving the matter.

Rights Advocate Criticizes Coup

PA2605173493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1537 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Mexico City, 25 May [date as received] (EFE)—The Human Rights Commission of Guatemala [CDHG] has charged that the disruption of Guatemala's institutional system legitimizes the hard-line position held by the Army, which is opposed to peace negotiations with the guerrillas and to the investigation of human rights violations.

Oswaldo Enriquez, a member of the CDHG Board of Directors, left Guatemala surreptiously on 25 May. He said in the Mexican capital on 26 May that the nongovernmental CDHG rejects the measures adopted by President Jorge Serrano on 25 May, because "they disrupt the constitutional order and create a climate of generalized fear."

In the wake of the coup d'etat, there has been a "disruption of the constitutional order and generalized fear. The militaristic position has prevailed over the unmilitaristic [civilista] desire for a negotiated solution," Enriquez said.

Enriquez was scheduled to present a report on human rights violations in Guatemala on 25 May. He was unable to do so because of the new political situation created by the concentration of all the power in Serrano's hands.

"This kind of action undermines the people's human rights," Enriquez said, adding that his organization "fears increased repression of the people."

The self-coup "is a mockery of justice. We are obviously very concerned, because the human rights situation will deteriorate, guarantees will be disregarded, a state of emergency exists, and at the same time, freedom of expression and the right to information have been restricted," Enriquez said.

Enriquez said this situation is "not new," because Serrano has maintained "a general position of anger toward the media."

The CDHG official said: "At this point, I could not say that there will be an exodus of Guatemalans to other countries as a result of the bloodless coup. I had to leave to protect my life."

With the self-coup, "the idea of impunity (in the commission of crimes) will prevail," Enriquez said, adding: "With the dissolution of the two branches of the state (the Legislative and Judicial Branches), we are faced with a 'dictatorial democracy' headed by a civilian, with the military hovering in the background."

Enriquez claims that Serrano's intention in staging this coup is "to change the methods used and agreements reached in the negotiation process (with the guerrillas) in the area of human rights in order to impose conditions by force."

Caracas Radio Reports Reaction

PA2605233593 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 2225 GMT 26 May 93

[Telephone Report by Emilio Crespo from Guatemala City]

[Excerpts] President Serrano has managed to survive the first 24 hours of the autocratic regime he imposed on 25 May. Serrano has withstood a torrent of national and international condemnation as a result of the exceptional powers he has assumed, which are more appropriate to a dictator.

The response in the streets has been virtually nil. There has not been a single demonstration repudiating the president in the capital or the interior. Diverse political and diplomatic circles attribute this lack of popular reaction more to indifference than to the fact that Serrano has any popular support, which he has not obtained in the past two elections. The president, who gained power with only a slight margin of votes over his contenders, on 25 May became an autocrat in Guatemala, assuming judicial and legislative powers. President Serrano has also benefited from the silence of the military, which has not come onto the streets or participated in arresting authorities or politicians. Nor has the military repudiated the president. [passage omitted]

Some of the magistrates and officials that Serrano removed are maintaining an active and firm opposition. The Constitutionality Court has declared the decrees through which Serrano gave himself other state powers juridically null.

SSC Rejects Decision

PA2705045393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0139 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—The people's organizations and unions that form part of the so-called Sectors of Civilian Society (SSC), which represents hundreds of thousands of citizens, today rejected the self-inflicted coup staged by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano and agreed not to recognize the new legal framework. At the end of a meeting held at the offices of the rector of San Carlos University (USAC), in which Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu participated, the representatives of 15 organizations signed a document that they will deliver to President Jorge Serrano on 27 May.

The groups that form part of the SSC and that signed the text include the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), the largest workers union in the country with over one million members; the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows (Conavigua); and the Relatives of Guatemalan Detainees and Missing Persons (Famdegua).

"We disregard and reject the unnumbered decree issued by the Executive Branch which grants it the authority to concentrate power," states the document, which ACAN-EFE was able to obtain. "The disruption of the institutional order that has taken place at this time in history, is based on a capricious interpretation of the law and puts the nation back into an undesired past," states the document.

After holding Serrano responsible for having isolated the country from the civilized and democratic nations, the SSC stresses in the document that the coup makes it harder to attain a firm and lasting peace in this country, the only one in Central America that still suffers a civil war. The SSC says the president's decision to merge the three branches of State (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) is "illegal" and holds him responsible for the lack of security in Guatemala. During the meeting, the leaders made a brief summary of the coups d'etat staged in Guatemala in 1963, 1982, and 1983, which left "profound fissures due to the disregard for human rights, for the right to free organization, and for freedom of expression." The SSC members agreed on the need to advance in the search for peace through participative processes in order to eradicate the causes that produced the social conflicts.

The document adds that the arguments used by the president to support his actions are "fallacies," because the Constitution itself makes it possible to "confront and overcome corruption and irregularities without breaking the legal framework." It stresses that Serrano "totally lacks the power to interrupt the validity of the Constitution and to abolish legally-constituted State branches." "The illegal conduct of the Executive Branch will maintain the lack of tranquility and safety, and will accent the levels of oppression and repression over the people and the democratic sectors," they warned.

The SSC requests a return to the institutions, respect for the State branches and institutions that have been "illegally" dissolved (Parliament, Supreme Court, and Constitutional Court), as well as the safety and immunity of the persons that form them.

Honduras

President Callejas Comments on Serrano's Decision

PA2605194793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on the morning of 26 May commented on Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias's decision to dissolve the Congress and the Supreme Court of that country.

[Begin Callejas recording] Central America would like to establish a common position. Thus, until a common stand on the regrettable developments in Guatemala is agreed upon, I will refrain from issuing an opinion. [end recording]

The president was asked about possible problems that the Central American Parliament could face in view of President Serrano's decision:

[Begin recording] [Callejas] The truth is that until Central America reaches a common stand I will refrain from commenting on such topics. The foreign ministers are currently exchanging views on developments in Guatemala and it would be virtually disrespectful on my part to issue an opinion until the Central American presidents and governments reach a common conclusion.

[Reporter] Did you discuss this during your meeting with the armed forces chief? What were your conclusions?

[Callejas] I repeat, we cannot issue an opinion or voice any specific stand because the Central American presidents want to agree on a common position. Thus, any opinion on my part would mean Honduras wants to overlook the current dialogue among the foreign ministers and the upcoming dialogue among the presidents.

[Reporter] Has this development caused uncertainty about the Group of Four meeting in Amapala?

[Callejas] I repeat, until the Central American presidents reach a common position—the entire region or the countries that make up the Group of Four—it would be adventuresome on my part to advance anything on the 28 May meeting.

We maintain that Central Americans are concerned about Central America and thus the area should reach a common stance. Thus, until there is a common position or definition, or until each country issues its own positions, I will refrain from commenting.

[Reporter] Is this justified when a country has a Legislative Branch that is not legislating for the people and that has a supreme court that is not administering justice?

[Callejas] That is not the case in Honduras. I think that the state system must be based completely on institutions and the state branches, which are defined by the Constitution of Republic, reflect the people's will. In my country, I respect the jurisdiction of state branches. The democratic system corrects mistakes. Democratic society improves to the extent that society matures, to the extent that there are constant demands to correct the problems of state branches.

My government has made specific proposals on the Judicial Branch. It has proposed constitutional amendments to make it more independent and to broaden the participation of various sectors in the choosing of the magistrates. We think the Congress of the Republic should not have absolute power to appoint magistrates, but that various sectors of society should play a role also.

In our opinion, this requires constitutional amendments that, unfortunately, have not yet materialized because there are political sectors that oppose constitutional amendments for reasons that I do not share. They claim constitutional amendments have a bearing on electoral results. That is untrue. It is illogical to stop the modernization of the Judicial Branch because of short-run political reasons, because Judicial Branch reforms will actually not have any effects until 1998. In other words, under the current system, in 1994 the Supreme Court magistrates will be elected by a simple Congress majority. This maintains the system, with which I disagree, of renewing the magistrates every four years by a simple Congress majority.

Our proposal is completely different. There would be a nomination committee made up of various sectors of society that would choose 30 magistrates and propose them to the Congress of the Republic, which would appoint nine principal magistrates and three alternates from that slate. [end recording]

Announces Presidential Meeting Cancellation

PA2605195993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1752 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 May (NOTIMEX)—Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas announced on 26 May that the meeting with his Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, and Guatemalan counterparts on the Honduran island of Amapala on 28 May has been canceled.

The president indicated that the events in Guatemala, where President Jorge Serrano headed a "self-inflicted constitutional coup," led to the cancellation of the meeting.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, Serrano, and Callejas

recently formed the Central America Group of Four. The group's second meeting was scheduled to be held on Amapala on 28 May.

The presidents of the so-called "Northern Triangle" (Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala) had previously agreed to hold monthly consultations to discuss the region's integration process and its achievements.

Correction to Discua on Drug Trafficking

PA2505183293

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Disuca on Drug Trafficking, Other Issues," published in the 25 May Latin America Daily Report on Pages 9 and 10:

Please make subslug read: ...[Interview with General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by Raul Balladares on 23 May; place not given—recorded]....(correcting title)

Column two, from fourth paragraph, make read: ...[Balladares] Is conscription still going on,....(rewording)

Column two, seventh paragraph, make read:....the Congress against conscription, which I, as....(rewording)

Nicaragua

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on Guatemalan Events

PA2605144393 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 93

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 25 May]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry expresses to the national and international public its concern about the events in Guatemala early on 25 May when exceptional measures were adopted, affecting the institutional order in that sister country. The consolidation of democracy in Central America is the main concern of Nicargua's foreign policy. The Nicaraguan Government views with concern any situation that might affect Central America's situation as a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development.

The Nicaraguan Government hopes the Guatemalans will find a prompt solution to their situation and achieve the reestablishment of normalcy. It trusts that human rights will be fully guaranteed while the temporary measures are in effect. It also expresses its belief that democracy can only be perfected through the paths established by democracy and laws.

Nicaragua has proceeded to request a prompt meeting of the Council of Central American Foreign Ministers to explore jointly the possibilities of contributing to the solution of the Guatemalan situation.

[Issued] Managua, 25 May 1993

Government, Presidency Ministers on Explosion, Cache

PA2605173793 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Maria Lourdes Osorio; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The People's Liberation Forces [FPL] of El Salvador is directly responsible for a weapons cache that exploded early on 23 May in Santa Rosa neighborhood, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta has confirmed. The explosion damaged 25 houses [as heard], killing two persons and injuring five. The government minister added that a third Central American country is also involved.

National Police experts on 24 May continued to inspect the weapons arsenal that partially exploded in a clandestine cache located in a car repair shop in Santa Rosa neighborhood. The explosion damaged more than 12 houses [as heard] and threatened the lives of hundreds of citizens.

[Mendieta] "We can report categorically that the FPL of El Salvador is linked directly to this cache. I already met with the Salvadoran ambassador on 24 May to discuss this problem under the specific instructions of President Chamorro to convey the Nicaraguan Government's decision to get to the bottom of this case.

"On 24 May we also summoned those who are currently responsible for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and FPL to request a satisfactory explanation about this cache. The Nicaraguan Government was absolutely sure the subversive phase of the FMLN in our country was over after it surrendered its weapons to the UN Observers for El Salvador.

"Thus, we are truly outraged by this situation and definitely consider this to be a very important issue, mainly because it involves an attempt to link our country to a domestic problem of El Salvador about which Nicaragua has stated its position very clearly. We have reports, which we will share with you on 25 May, on the involvement of a third Central American country to which part of those weapons were headed."

The government minister said this cache is among the most sophisticated that exist in the country because it was kept behind hydraulic doors. Aside from nearly a hundred weapons, the police found dozens of passports:

[Mendieta] "We found about 130 used Salvadoran passports, a brand new Italian passport, brand new U.S. passports [libretas], and passports from other countries. This involved elaborate passport forging. We found no Nicaraguan passports."

Initial reports indicate a transfer of weapons was in progress at the time of the explosion. Two women are

under arrest. The authorities are searching for the shop owner, Miguel Antonio Larios, a resident of Don Bosco neighborhood.

[Mendieta] "Our records show he is an Ecuadoran who became Nicaraguan on 20 April 1990 with Ecuadoran documents. [sentence as heard] We are searching for him. I repeat, on 25 May we will further report on any progress in the investigation."

The weapons will be destroyed on 26 May in the presence of President Chamorro.

Meanwhile, the government termed this explosion and the discovery of an arsenal of clandestine weapons that falls under the crime of gun running as unacceptable, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said.

[Lacayo] "The government is adopting all the necessary measures through the Government Ministry and National Police to determine who are involved regardless of their nationality because this can no longer be viewed in light of the considerations the government had for the FMLN in the past. It must now be viewed as illegal weapons trafficking that is definitely in violation of our country's laws. Thus, those who have anything to do with this cache will have to face the charges contemplated by the law for such crimes."

Panama

President Endara Approves Transportation Bill

PA2705025793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Amid threats of a strike by the National Transportation Coordinator, President Guillermo Endara endorsed the law that will regulate public transportation. President Guillermo Endara Galimany has approved Law No. 14 of 26 May 1993 which regulates public ground transportation and dictates other dispositions in that regard and which was approved in a third debate at the Legislative Assembly.

[Begin Legislator Eliseo Alvarez recording] This law is already a law of the Republic and will be obeyed faithfully on a nationwide scale. [end recording]

The transporters continue to oppose the law, and it is expected that they will meet with the president of the Republic on the afternoon of 26 May. The transporters have also announced that they will call a nationwide strike on 31 May.

Legislator Eliseo Alvarez, who promoted the law, says the Government and Justice Ministry will have to take drastic measures to respond to this announcement by the transporters.

[Begin Alvarez recording] The law, which is already a law of the Republic, clearly states in Article 28 that transportation cannot be paralyzed without a justification because it is punishable by revoking the operating license. The regulating entity, which is the Government and Justice Ministry, will have to execute the law and adopt all measures necessary to guarantee transportation for all users because it is a constitutional duty. [end recording]

The ceremony was held in the Yellow Hall of the Herons Palace and was attended by Lucas Zarak, president of the Legislative Assembly; Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier; Presidency Minister Julio Harris; and Legislator Eliseo Alvarez, president of the Communications and Transportation Commission of the Legislative Assembly.

Cuba Protests Diplomatic Immunity Violation

PA2605225593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 May 93 p 8C

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] The Cuban Government has filed a protest at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry over the alleged violation of the Cuban Embassy's immunity by Government Ministry employees during a search of security agencies operating illegally in Panama.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares confirmed that the protest had been filed and conceded that the Cuban charge d'affaires was right because the Foreign Ministry should have been informed of the operation prior to its execution. The incident involved an attempt by Government Ministry agents to disarm two security guards who work at the Cuban Embassy on Cuba Avenue. Linares admitted that the Panamanian agents did not stop to consider that diplomatic missions have immunity.

Relations between Cuba and Panama have been at a low level since the U.S. invasion. President Endara's government decided in 1990 to reduce the presence of Cuban diplomats in Panama to a minimum. Nevertheless, Ramon Abreu, assistant chief of the America Department of the Cuban Communist Party, visited Panama recently. While here he spoke with members of opposition and pro-government political parties. Also, Alberto Cigarruista, vice president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, headed a delegation of Panamanian deputies who traveled to Cuba.

State Owes Over $6 Billion to 11 Nations

PA2705012993 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 May 92 p 22

[Article by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Panama's contractual and noncontractual debt with 11 nations that are its main creditors totals approximately $6.251 billion, according to a Comptroller General's Office report. Among the nations that appear as Panama's creditors are the United States, Canada, Italy,

Denmark, Sweden, France, and Belgium. In addition, Panama owes $181.4 million to Venezuela and $68.6 million to Mexico.

According to the report, Japan and Taiwan also appear on the list of nations with which Panama has economic obligations. Moreover, the obligations with the Paris Club, which are loans guaranteed by the governments of the creditor nations or their agencies, add up to $185.9 million.

The document sets out that there is another significant group of creditors made up of the international financial institutions with which Panama maintains an $808 million debt. Panama's public contractual debt during the past governments stands at $2.3 billion, as in 1968 it totaled $206 million and till the end of 1989 the same totaled approximately $4.96 billion. [numbers as published] This debt was established through legal credit documents.

The contractual debt—according to the report—is part of the massive state debt inherited from governments installed by the military dictatorship. The past regime was also in default in the payments of the public foreign debt and left behind a deplorable financial situation. The former military rulers left behind an enormous unrecorded internal public debt. This debt includes not only an $931.74-million overdraft at the National Bank of Panama, but also a $180-million claim in expired unpaid debts to suppliers.

Former Noriega Associate Expelled From PRD

PA2605160393 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Political Commission on the morning of 25 May confirmed the definitive expulsion of Jose Isabel Blandon, former Noriega adviser, from the party, after charges of betrayal and collaboration with organizations opposed to the party were confirmed.

After stressing that Jose Isabel Blandon also committed flagrant violations of the principles, programs, and statutes of the PRD, the party's spokesperson indicated that Blandon, who also served as IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] director, is also posing as member of that party, founded by Omar Torrijos Herrera.

Argentina

Menem Believes OAS May Suspend Guatemala

PY2605182593 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1655 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May 9 (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today reaffirmed his condemnation of the institutional situation in Guatemala, stating: "There is a true alliance there between military and civilian forces. The dangerous thing is, however, that military power has advanced over civilian power, instead of being subordinated to it."

In remarks at Government House, Menem said he dared to predict that, as soon as they meet, the Rio Group foreign ministers will "energetically" condemn the attitude adopted by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano. He added: "Guatemala will be suspended from the OAS."

Di Tella Says Guatemalan Coup 'Much Worse' Than Peruvian

PY2605162493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1519 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has stated that the situation that erupted in Guatemala "is not of the same nature as that which occurred in Peru last year, it is really much worse." He announced that Argentina has called for an OAS emergency meeting for 3 June.

In remarks to reporters after participating in the signing of bilateral agreements with Brazil at the White Hall in Government House, Di Tella said: "This is an extremely grave action which we totally and completely condemn."

Menem Signs Agreement With Brazilian President

PY2605223693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1538 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—President Carlos Menem and his Brazilian counterpart, Itamar Franco, signed a joint declaration today in which they commit themselves to maintaining the timetable and goals of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] integration process, to which they assign "top priority" in their national policies.

The two presidents confirmed the two countries' commitment to peacefully exploiting space activities, reaffirmed the bilateral commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and emphasized that "the full effectiveness of democratic institutions and unrestricted respect for human rights are essential" for Latin America's progress and development.

Menem and Franco signed the joint declaration during a ceremony in the White Hall of the government house. On the same occasion Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and [acting] Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Palmeira Lampreia signed six protocols that will be annexed to the integration treaty, two of which involve overland transportation, while the other four involve binational enterprises, energy, the car manufacturing industry, and regional border issues.

The two presidents decided "to expand and enhance, with relation to the dynamic situation of the new international order, the strategies for political agreement, and strengthen the economic integration process."

The two presidents will coordinate their efforts to promote compliance with the decisions made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the international conventions on the ozone layer, climatic changes, and biological diversity.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction over the normal development of the electoral process in Paraguay, "which contributes to the enhancement of democracy" in that country.

The two presidents confirmed the two countries' goal of effectively and competitively integrating themselves into the international economy, and acting jointly to secure an effective deregularization of the multilateral trade system and a quick and fair completion of the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

The two presidents assigned "priority" to the construction of the Buenos Aires-Uruguay-Porto Alegre highway project, to which end a tripartite commission will be established in Montevideo tomorrow in order to begin the appropriate studies.

Menem and Franco also decided "to continue assigning special priority" to the Paraguay-Parana waterway program that links the five River Plate countries, "making its implementation more dynamic."

Studies will also be conducted into the future development of the river integration project involving the Tiete and Parana river systems, a project that will allow opening a new transportation route linking Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires.

In addition, President Itamar Franco invited Menem to attend the Brazilian Independence Day celebrations in Brasilia on 7 September.

Menem, Franco 'Condemn' Guatemala Situation

PY2605160693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1442 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Brazilian President Itamar Franco issued a communique today in which they "energetically condemn" the recent measures implemented by the Guatemalan Government, which suspended the national Constitution, closed Congress, and restricted individual rights and guarantees.

The brief communique issued at Government House, following the ceremony during which Argentina and Brazil reasserted their ties by signing several integration agreements, states that "respect for human rights is an essential element and an indispensable condition for stability, peace, and development in the region."

The communique urges the Guatemalan president "to restore, as soon as possible, constitutional normalcy and full respect for the Constitution."

Economy Minister Meets With Brazilian Counterpart

PY2605144793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that Brazil has agreed to purchase a greater number of Argentine cars and more Argentine wheat and crude oil to attenuate Argentina's $1.5 billion bilateral balance of trade deficit with that country.

Cavallo today lunched with his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Brazilian Foreign Minister Jose Aparecido de Oliveira at a Buenos Aires hotel.

The high-ranking officials analyzed the two countries' tariff differences that prevent greater trade exchange.

The ministers also talked about a common external duty system for capital goods because Argentina wants zero duties while Brazil applies very stiff protectionist duties.

This point is not included in the protocols that will be signed tomorrow, but according to an Economy Ministry source travelling with the Brazilian entourage the climate is good for seeking a solution to this problem.

Bilateral relations and the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] were issues that could not be absent from the meeting.

Cavallo said the balance of trade has improved and that the two countries' bilateral exchange should reach $5.5 billion this year, thus exceeding last year's exchange by $1 billion.

The minister said: "The $1.5 billion balance of trade deficit with Brazil will be attenuated through a Brazilian commitment to purchase more Argentine oil, wheat, and Argentine-made cars."

Cavallo also said the ministers discussed gas sales to Brazil and measures to be adopted to fight drug trafficking.

Camilion on Reported Firing Squads in Falklands

PY2505173393 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1357 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (TELAM)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion described as serious the remarks made by British Captain Anthony Mason on firing squad executions in the Malvinas Islands. He stressed that this testimony "is important evidence in any judicial system."

The defense minister noted: "If it—the report—is confirmed, it represents a war crime according to the Geneva Convention." He pointed out: "I hope the investigations will be strictly pursued and the procedures within British guidelines will continue." He noted: "We must expect the investigations to be pursued and actions to be taken accordingly."

Camilion made these remarks at the end of a ceremony at the Defense Ministry to mark the 183d anniversary of the May Revolution.

Demands UK Investigation

PY2605235393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1854 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion said today that the presumed executions of Argentine soldiers in the Malvinas Islands represent "aggravated homicide," and urged Great Britain to "punish appropriately" those responsible should these denunciations of war crimes during the South Atlantic conflict be confirmed." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Camilion said that testimonies from former British soldiers "must be investigated" by the United Kingdom, because "an Argentine effort in this regard would be doomed to failure."

"It is a British responsibility," the minister said in remarks to a radio station.

He added that "should these denunciations be confirmed," an "appropriate" punishment must be imposed. He added that the Defense Ministry "has no other information but that obtained through the press."

The issue of alleged war crimes during the war over the Malvinas Islands was brought up again the day before yesterday, when Anthony Mason, former captain of the British airborne troops, stated on a British television program that he had attended the firing squad execution of a wounded Argentine combatant after the Longdon Mount battle on 12 June 1982.

This accusation has confirmed the testimony of former British corporal Vincent Bramley, in his book "Excursion to Hell" on war crimes during the war.

"How are we going to conduct an investigation if we have no means of access to the place, and no access to the people?" he said.

Camilion said that "more than an execution," it is "an aggravated homicide in legal terms" which "violates the Geneva Convention and British internal law."

Moreover, Camilion said that "the Armed Forces are not saying that they are in a state of defenselessness," although he admitted that "they are not in their best form."

"This is real," he admitted.

He added that the military "equipment has experienced some deterioration" with a "comparatively meager budget." "Nor can we say that military personnel are very enthusiastic about their salaries," he said.

He said that this year's budget "is closed, except for possible emergencies," and explained that the money obtained from the sales of Army assets will not be used for "regular expenditures."

He added that these funds will be earmarked for "the modernization of the Armed Forces themselves," and especially for the "military reorganization which anticipates a redeployment" of troops throughout the country.

Consul Decries Foreign Ministry Establishment 'Plot'

PY2505222893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1108 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (NA)—Ruben Cardozo, former Argentine ambassador to Paraguay and current consul general in Miami, has denounced a plot by what he called "the Foreign Ministry establishment [preceding word in English]" against political appointees "because they do not want them to occupy their posts."

Cardozo, who spoke by telephone with the program of Daniel Hadad and Marcelo Longobardi [not further identified], revealed the existence of "a small Foreign Ministry group which has set up a delicate political operation" against him, accusing him of leaving the embassy in Paraguay with a debt of approximately $230,000.

The Cardozo "affair" began when an investigation conducted in Paraguay by the Argentine morning newspaper CLARIN revealed that Cardozo had left debts at different places, such as the tailor's shop where he had his suits made, the dry cleaning establishment, the automobile shop, the gas stations, and a travel agency, among others.

According to Cardozo's explanation last night, upon learning about the denunciations appearing in the Argentine press he immediately sent a note to the newspaper denying them, but according to what he said the note "was not published."

He also said the Paraguayan newspaper ABC COLOR had published a full page dedicated to denying the debts of which Cardozo had been accused, "but nothing of that was published in Argentina."

"This has been a frontal attack upon myself and my family, and upon all political appointees of the Foreign Ministry," Cardozo said. He added that the Foreign Ministry had authorized him to travel to Buenos Aires on 27 May "to clear up the situation and present his defense directly to Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella."

Moreover, Cardozo revealed that for some weeks he has been suffering heart problems which had forced him to enter the hospital, and that upon being discharged from the hospital the report arriving from Argentina had sent him "back to the hospital."

Secretary Urges Whaling Ban in 'All World Seas'

PY2705031493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0018 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (TELAM)—The national tourism secretary has called for the adoption of measures to ban the indiscriminate fishing of whales in all world seas.

The request, included in Resolution 278/93, was published in the OFFICIAL BULLETIN today and is based on "the need to protect and preserve marine mammals, which constitute an attraction of unique characteristics and are among the most spectacular beauties of the planet."

Japan and Norway pressured for the lifting of the whale fishing ban, which was instituted in 1986, during the meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Kyodo, Japan, two weeks ago.

Despite these pressures the commission decided to extend the ban for one more year. The extension did not please ecologists, who wanted an indefinite extension of the measure.

The tourism secretary's resolution mentioned Law 23094, which declares whales found within Argentina's jurisdictional waters natural monuments, as well as protective regulations approved by Chubut Province.

Bolivia

President Paz Zamora 'Laments' Guatemalan Coup

PY2605193193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora was asked about the situation in the Republic of Guatemala. He addressed the possible causes for this self-inflicted coup, expressing his confidence in democratic rule.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] President of the Republic Jaime Paz Zamora spoke about the recent self-inflicted coup in Guatemala. The president pointed out that it involves a disagreement within that nation, a disagreement that leads to this type of situation. He rejected this type of situation, yet expressed his understanding.

[Paz Zamora] If you review the three examples, it is exactly like that—countries incapable of reaching

domestic agreement and thus cannot experience democracy based on consensus, agreement, and participation.

Peru is a typical example. The main reason for President Fujimori's intervention was the imminent threat of national disintegration with regard to the established violence and civil insecurity.

Guatemala has unfortunately been experiencing for a long time a state of upheaval and violence and an unresolved Indian problem which, thank God, we Bolivians can—within democratic coexistence—bear.

Therefore, lamenting this event [pauses] ... Nevertheless, learning the lesson is important. A country that cannot reach agreement and that is incapable of peaceful coexistence will wind up discontinuing its democratic process.

If Peru or Guatemala are examples for those situations, Bolivia, thank God, is becoming an example in Latin America of the other path, a path along which democracy exists provided it is based on coexistence, national understanding, and the solution of problems through democratic institutions. [end recording]

At Least 20 High-Ranking Officials To Testify in Arms Case

PY2605163693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] We have a report from the JATHA News Agency on the arms trafficking case.

At least 20 high-ranking officials from four ministries were summoned yesterday to testify in the investigations ordered by President Jaime Paz Zamora to establish the links in the confirmed case of international arms trafficking. This issue also involves the illegal issuance of visas, and other administrative irregularities within the government.

The ministers conducting these investigations are: the foreign minister, the interior minister, and the defense minister.

The first high-ranking officials who will be summoned to testify are: Bernardo Inch, the multilateral affairs and integration under secretary [title as heard]; Carlos Rosso, the minister counselor of the Bolivian Embassy in Austria; [Foreign Ministry] Protocol Director Fernando Calderon; Mirna Palacios, the [Foreign Ministry] Privileges and Immunities Section director; and National Property Department Director Victor Hugo Penaranda. Inpex [Institute for Export Promotion] representative in Germany (Berthold Mussler Hassler), from whom an official report is expected, has also been suspended.

Official sources told the JATHA News Agency that about half a dozen immigration and Defense Ministry officials, including some high-ranking military officers, are included in the proceedings.

The investigations—which have an unprecedented scope as they include four ministries—into the arms trafficking issue must be completed by 7 June, the day after the elections. It is expected that the Attorney General's Office and a Congressional Committee will conduct separate investigations. A trial for malfeasance in office has not been ruled out. Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez, who yesterday received the preliminary reports, is the coordinator general of the investigations.

Sources close to the investigations told our JATHA News Agency that, challenging last week's Foreign Ministry and Interior Ministry allegations, there are strong links between arms trafficking and the administrative irregularities, which would lead to the conclusion that officials directly involved in the arms smuggling to Croatia have used Bolivian papers and violated the international embargo imposed by the United Nations.

Preliminary investigations have established that, in addition to the arms trafficking case, there are serious irregularities in the governmental systems of control on immigration and the issuance of passports. These irregularities were used by the traffickers to their advantage. This government disorganization was used well by the traffickers.

Officials Report on Eradication of Coca Plantations

PY2705151793 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 19 May 93 p A3

[Text] Campesino Affairs Ministry officials announced have that, irrespective of the result of the negotiations with the United States, the destruction of excess coca plantations will continue under to Law No. 1008 which establishes a drop of at least 5,000 hectares.

Alternative Development Under Secretary Francisco Zannier held a news conference at his office. He said that the Bolivian position in the negotiations with the United States is "realistic." He said that it respects Law No. 1008 on controlled substances and coca, which foresees the eradication of 5,000 to 8,000 hectares per year.

Zannier said that the heavy rains at the beginning of the year meant that the eradication of coca in El Chapare did not reach the expected levels. He added that now the dry season is here they expected to eradicate more illegal coca plantations.

Zannier said that plantations are being destroyed in the El Chapare region of Cochabamba, and that the eradication of plantations in the Yungas region of La Paz is increasing.

He said that about 100,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been detected, which represents 5,000 hectares of mature coca.

He stated that this eradication must be implemented through agreement with the producers by offering them alternative crops and access to better income through the

agro-industrial juice processing plant that will be installed in the next few months.

Campesino Affairs Minister Oswaldo Antezana said last week that Bolivia will do its best in the negotiations with the United States over the amount of coca that must be eradicated this year.

He agrees with Zannier that the national position will continue to comply with Law No. 1008. The United States already announced that its support for the Bolivian balance of payment will amount to just $40 million, while in previous years it was $66 million. The United States will also contribute $30 million for alternative development projects.

The minister said that despite this, "we can negotiate with them, although no agreement has yet been reached, and we will try to make the utmost of these negotiations for the benefit of the country."

Some 1,300 hectares of excess coca plantations were eradicated in four months in Bolivia, but this figure is expected to increase in the dry season, Zannier said.

He said that, by 12 May, 1,247 hectares of mature plantations and 53 hectares of new plantations had been destroyed, a total 1,300 hectares. He added that the heavy rains at the beginning of the year prevented further eradication of coca. Work is expected to increase significantly in the next few months.

Zannier added that 4,090 square meters of coca seedbeds were destroyed in El Chapare which represent 205 hectares of mature coca.

Dissident Group Splits From Condepa Party

PY2505181893 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Unhappy with nepotism, corruption, and abuses by Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland] leaders, a group of Condepa members has decided to form the Condepa-21 September [Condepa-21 de Setiembre] bloc. This was reported by former El Alto Mayor Jaime Reyes Merida.

Former El Alto Mayor Jaime Reyes Merida is heading the Condepa dissident group, named 21 September, as a reaction to corruption and nepotism prevailing in this party, which will participate in the upcoming elections in June. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Franco Demands Solution For Nuclear Waste Storage

PY2605152593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 93 p 7

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco yesterday informed Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, chief of the Strategic Affairs Secretary (SAE), that he has until the beginning of next week to study all possible alternatives for solving the lack of proper and safe storage for 7.8 tonnes of nuclear waste which O GLOBO reported is stored in temporary warehouses. Franco met with Flores yesterday morning. He explained that the study must be finished before he returns from his tour of Argentina and Uruguay.

Assistant Press Secretary Fernando Costa said: The president wants Admiral Flores to study all possible alternatives for the storing of nuclear waste. He wants him to talk with specialists and verify which bills are in Congress.

In Sao Paulo, Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury asked the environment and justice secretariats to contact the federal government nuclear control office to determine how radioactive waste is stored in Sao Paulo State.

The nuclear waste issue has been a constant concern which came into the spotlight after O GLOBO published an article on 23 May.

Strategic Affairs Secretary on Nuclear Waste Dump Projects

PY2605224693 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 93 p 7

[Article by Tereza Cruvinel]

[Text] Brasilia—Tasked by President Itamar Franco with finding a solution to our country's nuclear waste problem, Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE) minister-chief [title as published], has a great concern: this year's budget does not include an allocation for the construction of a $14 million waste dump. He considers this project—to store away the Pocos de Caldas (Minas Gerais State) uranium mine's radioactive waste—to be the most urgent one. The project for the waste dump, which would be located near the mine in southern Minas Gerais State, has already been completed.

In Pocos de Caldas, the federal government operates a uranium processing plant, but for economic reasons only processes high-grade ore which is used to manufacture and export "yellow-cake" [preceding word in English]—a product which after being enriched is used as fuel by the nuclear power plants. A second type (the so-called cake-II), which appears mixed with other minerals, forms the waste material, which is being stored in drums.

The second priority established by the minister involves the waste dump of Abadiania (Goias State), 150 km from Brasilia, where all the material contaminated by the cesium-137 accident in Goiania in 1988 will be stored. He has already visited the site and is monitoring the drawing up of a Rima (environmental impact report).

The minister said: "Unlike the Pocos de Caldas case, in which the federal government is the uranium mine's owner,

the Goiania problem was caused by human stupidity. The SAE will monitor the waste dump's construction, but it will be necessary to reach an agreement between the federal government and the Goias government."

From a security viewpoint these are the two only waste dumps that Flores considers important and urgent. According to the minister the solution for storage and protection of the Angra dos Reis nuclear complex's waste, even though this is the most dangerous, has been foreseen in the power plant's project plans. The problem even becomes unimportant in light of the fact that the power plants have been operating very little during the past 12 years, producing less waste than had been foreseen.

In conclusion, Flores said: "There is a lot of talk about the Ipen [Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research] waste in Sao Paulo, but I can guarantee that the dumps that have already been constructed are extremely secure." He rules out the necessity of constructing a single dump in some remote location in our country, which has been speculated upon.

Victories of Leftist Factions Within Workers Party Viewed

PY2605172893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 93 p 8

[Article by Luoia Helena Gazzola]

[Text] Workers Party [PT] President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has since last week been discussing with other party leaders the split caused by the repeated victories of leftist PT groups in state directorates. The subjects being discussed are the future of the PT—the new national leadership of which will be elected during a convention scheduled for June—and Lula's presidential campaign.

Deputy Aloizio Mercadante (SP) [Sao Paulo] and PT Vice President Luiz Gushiken talked with Lula for more than an hour yesterday in the headquarters of the parallel PT government. "He is not worried over the influence of the new state directorates in the campaign because the winning groups come from the Articulation faction and they do not follow any other political faction," Gushiken said.

Mercadante said: "The new PT directorate in Sao Paulo won a circumstantial victory, but I still think it is possible to unite the Articulation and National Encounter factions." He thus referred to the convention during which the new national leadership will be elected in June. He guarantees that the winning faction—the left-wing of the Articulation faction with the support of the radicals—will not compromise the policy of alliances for Lula's candidacy because it does not contradict the current national leadership.

Gushiken maintains, however, that the disagreement created during the 1991 convention over the PT policy of alliances for the elections follows what he calls "a split in the Articulation faction." He said: "A group close to Deputy Jose Genoino struggled for broader alliances, while another group defended restricted alliances."

Genoino is close to the moderates of the Articulation faction, that is, the group comprising Lula, Mercadante, and Gushiken. He says that three issues are currently dividing the party: The policy of alliances for 1994, Lula's government platform, and his candidacy profile. "The left wants a true PT program with its own candidacy profile, while we want a joint program with the center-left groups and alliances for the first voting round."

* Initial Impact of Quercia Resignation on PMDB Seen

93SM0270A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 5 May 93 pp 24-27

[Article by Jose Onofre: "In the Wake of a Resignation"]

[Text] *Quercia complains of betrayals and resigns, and the party becomes more mixed up than ever.*

Former Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia's resignation as president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and his decision not to run for another term on 30 May served to spotlight the fact that Quercia and Sao Paulo's current governor, Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, need each other. His actions also served to show the members of the party's National Executive Committee, which was holding a special meeting in Brasilia on Tuesday the 27th—24 hours after Quercia's withdrawal—the importance of the defection it has suffered. Surprised by the disclosure itself, the executive committee released a four-point note acknowledging that the former governor was the object of a defamatory campaign, giving him its support, praising his performance as president, and confirming that elections for the executive committee would be held on 30 May. Senator Jose Fogaca (PMDB, Rio Grande do Sul), who is one of the former governor's most dedicated opponents, declared that Quercia's vote would be indispensable to the new president.

Quercia's resignation was his own decision and one that matured during his stay in Campinas over the weekend. On Monday morning, he invited his former secretary of finance, Jose Machado de Campos Filho, to breakfast, at which time he told the latter of his decision and asked him to deliver his letter of resignation to the members of the PMDB State Executive Committee, who were meeting in Sao Paulo. It was 1000 when he arrived at the offices of the DIARIO DO POVO in Campinas, in which he is a partner. He had lunch there with editors of the newspaper. That afternoon he telephoned the governor's office in Sao Paulo and spoke with Fleury's brother [illegible]ico (Frederico Pinto Ferreira Coelho Neto). That [illegible]vening, fulfilling an old commitment, he and his wife [illegible]ended a wedding at which he was best man. And he [illegible]pt mum.

Quercia's letter reached newspaper, radio, and television offices at around 1500. A few minutes later, a Sao Paulo reporter telephoned San Diego, California to learn the reaction of Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, who was visiting the United States to talk with government people and businessmen and attract funds. In the suite he was using to receive visitors at the Rayat Lajola Hotel, Fleury was reached by his press adviser and informed. His advisers say that he was dismayed and that he telephoned Quercia immediately. The latter explained to him that he had evidence that elements in the PMDB "were getting ready" and that the party would be divided when it met for its national convention in Minas Gerais on 30 May. Faced with the likelihood of unanticipated results, he had decided to withdraw from the party presidency and to decline to run for reelection. Fleury pledged solidarity, and the two men scheduled a meeting for 7 May, one day after the governor's return to Brazil.

In the following days, still shaken over the surprising resignation by a politician known to be averse to giving up, Quercia's supporters and opponents alike, evaluating and interpreting the gesture and the letter, said that the phrase in the next to the last paragraph ("...while my opponents are making a great deal of noise, my comrades, with some exceptions, are keeping an even more deafening silence. Not to mention those who say they are loyal while trying to stab me in the back.") was aimed primarily at Governor Fleury. The words "disloyalty" and "betrayal," which until then had been whispered only in the most private meetings by Quercia followers, were repeated so often that they reached New Orleans, the next stop on Fleury's trip. The governor reacted with indignation, reaffirming his support both for Quercia's continued presence as president and for his reelection. He also said that he would be at Quercia's side if the latter wanted to run for president of the republic or state governor. He denied that Quercia was referring to him in the letter. "If he was talking about me, why would he talk to me on the telephone and schedule a meeting?" Fleury argued. In a specific gesture indicating his continued support for the former governor's plans, he confirmed the appointment of former Minister of Labor Murilo Macedo as president of Banespa and the State Savings Bank. Murilo, who is very close to Quercia, feels that the crisis is only a misunderstanding. He said: "I do not believe there were betrayals."

Long before the resignation, however, some of Quercia's supporters had been collecting evidence that Fleury was distancing himself from Quercia. The strongest complaint about Fleury came from Minister of Transport Alberto Goldman. He gathered several Quercia-supporting deputies in his office and showed them a video tape of the program "National Opinion," which airs on Sao Paulo's Culture TV every day at 1800. The program for 6 April included Fleury, Joaquim Francisco (governor of Pernambuco and a former member of the PFL [Liberal Front Party]), and Jader Barbalho (governor of Para and a member of the PMDB). The program's presenter asked Fleury what he thought of the flattering references addressed to him by the governor of Ceara, Ciro Gomes, who had also advised Fleury "to disentangle himself from the president of the PMDB." Fleury answered: "The ideal thing would be for us to seek the path of equilibrium and reconciliation."

When asked whether he considered such a reconciliation possible, Jader Barbalho mentioned Ciro Gomes' praise of Fleury. "When an opponent praises me, I have to think about whether I have made a mistake," he said, engaging in a vehement defense of Quercia and attacking "the newspaper owners who support Maluf and the editors who support the PT [Workers Party] for engaging in a campaign against the president of the PMDB." Lastly, he directed a barb at Fleury: "Quercia left office as governor of Sao Paulo with a high level of popularity, and Fleury's election reflected the population's opinion of that administration." After showing the tape, Goldman attacked Fleury for not defending Quercia and praised Barbalho: "It is Jader who is a true comrade." Goldman and Quercia's supporters knew that there was a plot to oppose both Quercia's reelection as party president and his nomination for president of the republic. Parallel with that, some groups both inside and outside the party were insinuating that Fleury was promoting unity and Quercia disunity and that Fleury was the one who could be a strong candidate against Maluf and Lula in 1994—the so-called third way.

It is the PMDB's Rio Grande do Sul group—whose leaders are Senators Pedro Simon and Jose Fogaca (Fogaca is filling in for Quercia until 30 May) and Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro—that is trying to widen Quercia's differences with the party by encouraging Fleury to become a presidential hopeful. It was those movements, encouraged from the outside by the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], and the certainty that he would be challenged in Minas Gerais on the 30th by Pedro Simon's candidacy that led Quercia to resign. When the news reached Congress, a degree of euphoria prevented party leaders from making an objective evaluation. But the meeting by the executive committee on Tuesday the 27th was enlightening. When the first vice president, Jarbas Vasconcelos, arrived from Recife, the meeting was already under way under the leadership of the second vice president, Jose Fogaca. "Have I been ousted?" Jarbas asked. All the PMDB leaders stood up, and Jose Fogaca asked Deputy Maurilio Ferreira Lima: "Then tell me what the second vice president is supposed to do?" And Maurilio answered: "The second vice president replaces the first vice president when the latter is absent. And nothing else." The atmosphere became tense. Under the party's bylaws, Jarbas could not preside because he holds an executive position. He would have to resign as mayor of Recife, something he had not done, so Fogaca was entitled to preside.

With the matter of the bylaws resolved, the executive committee began considering its situation. "As a result of Quercia's departure, the PMDB is the only major party without a natural candidate for president," said Simon. And the PMDB began to realize that it was facing

its worst crisis since the flight of the PSDB. In the days following the resignation, the PMDB continued trying without much success to get back on track. The more optimistic members made calculations pointing to big gains, including the return of the PSDB to the old nest. Speculation about what lay behind Quercia's action began to torment his opponents as well. "He is a gambler," said Simon, insinuating that Sao Paulo's former governor was preparing a major move. Simon may have been the first, but he was not the only one to suggest that Quercia was playing a game. And statements using metaphors involving poker, snooker, and other games proliferated. All in an attempt to explain something much more simple.

Orestes Quercia wanted to be party president in order to become a candidate for president of the republic. Pressure to keep him and his allies from achieving that goal had been building for over six months. Quercia's supporters see their leader's "betrayers" as being the president of the Sao Paulo PMDB, Deputy Roberto Rollemberg, who participated in several meetings by the so-called Renewal Group (made up of members from Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, and Minas Gerais), Recife Mayor Jarbas Vasconcelos, Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury, and the latter's secretary of energy, Luiz Carlos Santos (considered the chief organizer of resistance to Quercia in Sao Paulo). The Quercia group was resisting and intending to provoke confrontation. But not Quercia. He would accept a divided party only as a last resort or not even that, as shown by his resignation. Speculation about his making some kind of "move" is naive. In the position Quercia occupies, any action of his has political significance, and that is what happened. By abandoning his proposals, he was admitting that his opponents had created an area of strength sufficient to split the party, with the result that the PMDB's importance would become an illusion.

The PMDB is the largest Brazilian party. It controls over 2,000 municipal governments and has 102 federal deputies, 27 senators, and seven governors. The absence of a natural candidate in the face of opponents who have already declared their candidacy, such as Maluf and Lula, will transform the convention on 30 May into a battleground. But the situation began to change as early as the meeting held at the home of Humberto Lucena, president of Congress, in Lago Sul on the 27th. That meeting lasted until 0300 and resulted in a note praising Quercia that was published in the newspapers on the 29th. One of Quercia's most active defenders was former President Jose Sarney, who considers him essential in the presidential election process (by the senators' calculations, Quercia controls at least 1,000 of the PMDB's 2,000 mayors, and that potential must not be disregarded). They all agreed, and Senator Mauro Benevides even proposed that Quercia be reelected party president. Sarney telephoned Quercia, who said that he would not reenter the contest. "I do not want that at all," he said.

What is clear, even to Quercia's opposition, is that he is coming increasingly to be the crucial individual. In the estimation of influential senators and deputies who support the party but not a particular wing, the chances that Quercia will be the PMDB's candidate for president of the republic in 1994 are increasing steadily. The Fleury issue is seen as being restricted to Sao Paulo. "The problem now is to preserve party unity and not create problems with Quercia. Party organization in Brazil is fragile, and it cannot withstand bombardment," said one of the PMDB's most influential senators. The PMDB's firefighters are hoping that the meeting between Fleury and Quercia on the 7th will end the split in Sao Paulo. "Quercia was not referring to me in his letter. All that is nothing but a plot by people who are unhappy because of having to leave the government. At no time have I felt that this affected me. If it was Quercia's intention to get at me, why would he have answered my telephone call on Monday?" Fleury asked. He claims that there is a consensus solution that is good for both men and for party unity. We will soon know what that solution is.

Chile

U.S. Government Protests Chilean Flight Freeze

PY2605131893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The U.S. Government has formally protested to the Chilean Government over the problem resulting from the freeze on flights imposed on the U.S. airlines that fly the Santiago-Miami route. American Airlines and United Airlines will file a petition before the Chilean Supreme Court protesting over the resolution that freezes a request to increase the number of flights to Santiago. This has been solicited by both U.S. airlines.

The United States formalized the protest through a diplomatic note that U.S. Ambassador to Chile Curtis Kamman gave Foreign Under Secretary Rodrigo Diaz Albonico. The U.S. claims that the Chilean resolution affects the free trade system.

Reliable Foreign Ministry sources told Cooperativa, however, that the United States does not practice an open skies policy at home. The controversy involving the U.S. and Chilean airlines follows a ruling by the Anti-Monopoly Resolving Commission [Comision Resolutiva Antimonopolio], an autonomous Chilean tribunal, that freezes the U.S. airlines request to increase flight frequencies as of 1 June. The freeze is based on the fact that it is impossible for four airlines to operate a parallel operation on the already saturated Santiago-Miami route.

The companies involved are American Airlines and United Airlines of the United States and LAN Chile and Ladeco of Chile. Chilean companies claim they will lose $14 million per year if they operate in those conditions. The deadlock comes as the government, represented by the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Chilean Private

Board, are preparing to revise the binational air navigation treaty with the State Department in Washington.

The Chilean airlines will use solid arguments and economic studies to show in Washington that American Airlines and United Airlines are involved in predatory practices.

Hidden Microphone Found In Foreign Ministry Office

PY2605153893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] The government is very concerned about an incredible discovery in an office of the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

According to exclusive information obtained by the 24 Horas program, a sophisticated microphone was found hidden in the office that was used until yesterday by Edmundo Vargas, who was under secretary at the time.

The discovery has been termed extremely serious and has prompted an exhaustive investigation.

The government handles complex issues of national interest, many times related to state security, and therefore certain conversations and documents are kept secret.

An inspection last Thursday, 20 May, at the Foreign Ministry caused concern following the discovery of a highly sensitive microphone in the office of the under secretary.

The inspection confirmed the suspicions of some officials. The sophisticated device was found well hidden near the desk and telephone of former Foreign Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas. This case of espionage is very serious because secret subjects are discussed inside this office.

There is now a great deal of movement on the third floor of the Foreign Ministry due to the intense activities being carried out by Rodrigo Diaz Albonico, who was sworn in as new under secretary yesterday.

[Begin Diaz recording] I had no information on this subject when I took over on Saturday, 22 May. If this happened, it had already happened because I have no information on it. [end recording]

Security agents continue to inspect every corner of the old building. No other spying devices have been found so far. [passage omitted]

President, Officials React to Discovery of Hidden Microphone

PY2705004193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rodrigo Diaz Albonico said today [26 May] that the degree of seriousness of having found a hidden telephone in the office of former Foreign Relations Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas will be determined after an investigation is carried out.

Diaz made this comment after attending the Security Committee meeting at La Moneda Palace chaired by acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco. Diaz said the hidden telephone was found after a routine check of the Foreign Ministry, and that an investigation would be carried out to detect from where it came and to whom it belongs. He added that it will be Foreign Ministry officials rather than the police who will carry out the investigation, and that its results will be announced within a reasonable time. He denied that national security is affected by this finding.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Diaz] I cannot say. We are very careful about anything that has to do with national security, and this is why periodic checks are made. The finding was made as a result of the check, and this will be investigated.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it serious?

[Diaz] No, but events of this kind which are not normal and represent some kind of interference are serious. We have, however, taken all the precautions, and this is why the periodic checks are made. [end recording]

Diaz Albonico also reported that he had discussed this issue with the appropriate officials, without confirming or denying whether he gave details of this event to acting President Enrique Krauss. Asked about the comments made by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who said that this event might be some kind of internal espionage, Diaz Albonico rejected that idea. Diaz added that Silva Cimma is too far away from the country, and has not received all the background on this case.

President Patricio Aylwin, who is doing a European tour, also commented on the finding of the hidden microphone in the Foreign Ministry. We have a report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez from Helsinki, Finland:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] President Patricio Aylwin said that he had no additional details on this event beyond the information about a hidden microphone having been found in the office of former Foreign Relations Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas.

[Aylwin] Naturally, the fact that a microphone has been found in any official's office is a delicate event that should be investigated, with its origin and purpose clarified and the people responsible for it found.

[Rodriguez] Aylwin added that according to information received from acting President Enrique Krauss, an investigation is being carried out, and no results have yet been obtained. Aylwin was asked if it would be necessary to check the main government offices.

[Aylwin] The offices are regularly checked. My office and the offices of all the ministries are checked regularly. My

house and my private office in Amapolas are also checked, and we never found anything. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma described the finding of a hidden microphone in the Foreign Ministry Undersecretariat as a repugnant event. He made this comment in Finland, where he is accompanying President Aylwin on his European tour.

[Begin Silva recording] This event is repugnant to reason [words indistinct] more or less dangerous, how it was placed there and why. I cannot give an opinion because I am not aware of the details. We will have to carry out an investigation to determine its origin. Perhaps this is only an internal thing; it is most probably an internal rather than outside concern. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, who is currently the acting foreign minister, said that the finding of a hidden microphone in the office of former Foreign Relations Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas is a very serious event, but that it does not compromise national security. Rojas made this comment in La Moneda Palace after attending the Security Committee meeting chaired by acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco. Rojas also said that the government's security system is reasonably adequate, and that the finding of a microphone in a government office is not the sort of event that occurs exclusively in our country. [passage omitted]

National Renewal Rejects Congressional Alliance With UCC

PY2405134293 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] We will now review political issues. The National Renewal Party [RN] today made an important decision to clarify the right's stormy situation. It ended negotiations with the Center Center Union [UCC], the party headed by Francisco Javier Errazuriz.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The special RN general convention began with an ovation for [RN President] Andres Allamand. The ovation represents both timely support for the RN president after a week marked by his controversy with the entrepreneurs [not further specified] and categorical support for his refusal to enter a congressional pact with the UCC.

The debate, which was held behind closed doors, only confirmed the initial impression: None of the delegates present at the Diego Portales building endorsed the idea of joining the party headed by Francisco Javier Errazuriz for the 11 December elections.

[RN member Gregorio Papic] Concerning the possibility of joining a congressional pact with the UCC, which is headed by Mr. Francisco Javier Errazuriz, the [RN] executive board agrees to reject this type of alliance. [applause]

[Reporter] The RN executive board made a similar decision on the necessity of insisting on entering a congressional alliance with the Independent Democratic Union [UDI], even guaranteeing to its traditional allies the retention of their current representatives in Congress.

The RN presidential candidate closed the special convention, reflecting the spirit prevailing among RN followers.

[RN presidential candidate Manuel Feliu] Deeds are actually registered by history, not the discussions over exclusive [electoral] districts or negotiations to secure advantages for candidates who need them because ultimately they lack enough strength and courage to win on their own. [applause]

[Reporter] The RN president only talked with journalists at the end of the special convention.

[Allamand] Today we have taken a final step toward the real center-right's unity. We have freed ourselves from the trap in which we were, a trap that—perhaps—would have kept us in this bogged-down situation for who knows how long. [end recording]

Entrepreneur Carlos Cardoen Interviewed

PY2405211593 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 May 93 pp 8, 9

[interview with businessman Carlos Cardoen by Maria Eugenia Oyarzun—place and date not given]

[Text] He is concerned. He feels indignation and, perhaps, a little anxious because, contrary to what he has been doing all his life—organizing, issuing orders, and making decisions—his situation now depends on other people: U.S. Government officials.

Carlos Cardoen Cornejo, 51, engineer, born in Colchagua, made his fortune by manufacturing weapons for our Armed Forces at a time when it was conceivable that Chile could have engaged in conflict with one of our neighbors, at a time when the United States banned the sale of weapons to the military government. Cardoen now feels "like the scapegoat" of the Persian Gulf war against Iraq, which followed the invasion of Kuwait on orders from Saddam Husayn.

His U.S. lawyers have been informed that a formal charge is being prepared against him in Miami, in addition to a request for his extradition so that he may be brought to the U.S. courts. He is "surprised" at this, categorically stating that "I committed no crime at all."

Cardoen has dismantled his weapons factories, diversified his business toward the production and exportation of fruits and farm products, built mining enterprises and aluminum factories, produced jeans, and rendered advisory services to various governments that were under the influence of the former USSR, including Cuba. Cardoen feels that he is living "a nightmare."

[Oyarzun] You have said you are at war with the United States. Is this part of it?

[Cardoen] I am not at war with the United States. I am at war with those who persevered since the Bush Administration and who sought scapegoats to conceal their involvement in the military equipping of Saddam Husayn's Army in Iraq.

[Oyarzun] Do you believe people from the previous U.S. Administration supplied arms to Husayn before the Gulf War?

[Cardoen] Exactly. Concerning Iraq's military requirements, the Bush Administration implemented a "laissez-faire, laissez-passer" policy for a reason that I once assessed as fair; namely the Arab world pitted against Iranian fundamentalism. Bush failed to tell the U.S. public that the same person acted unilaterally by invading Kuwait. He forgets that his enemy was once his ally and, in the same way, we sold Saddam Husayn the armament that we manufactured for him. We are currently being viewed as partners of a U.S. enemy when we actually were partners of a U.S. friend.

[Oyarzun] When did you cease selling arms to Husayn?

[Cardoen] Until the end of the war between Iraq and Iran in 1988. Some orders were canceled because that war ended.

[Oyarzun] When the Gulf War broke out there was a ban on sending arms to Iraq, and you had a factory there. Is this right?

[Cardoen] We had an industry plant that did not manufacture arms. We installed a machinery and equipment factory until the Gulf War broke out. Relations were severed and Chile endorsed a UN resolution against trading with Iraq. We removed our people. Our engineers were held for a while and our relations with Iraq ended.

[Oyarzun] You say some former U.S. Administration officials are determined to create problems for you. Who are they?

[Cardoen] Eduardo Palmer, the Miami District federal assistant prosecutor, who has conducted the entire investigation, and Notwicki and Scoonmaker, two U.S. Customs officials who visited Chile to question some former employees, as witnesses, in order to determine if my company committed any crime against U.S. export laws.

[Oyarzun] What did those former employees tell you?

[Cardoen] They informed us and we informed the Chilean authorities in order to get the investigators expelled.

[Oyarzun] Why?

[Cardoen] Because they wanted to investigate illegally. We filed a petition for protection with the Appellate Court, a petition that is still effective.

[Oyarzun] When did those U.S. officials come?

[Cardoen] In July 1992. Palmer, personally, and his officials regularly call former employees from the dismantled arms industry, offering them tickets, living allowances, identity changes, and U.S. citizenship in exchange for their betrayal. The U.S. Ambassador personally asked me to become his informer. If I had accepted, maybe I would not have these problems.

[Oyarzun] Which ambassador asked you to become his informer?

[Cardoen] Charles Gillespie, at his embassy.

[Oyarzun] And what is happening now in this war that you are waging on the United States?

[Cardoen] After two years of seizing documents, closing our offices in Miami, and questioning our personnel in Chile and in the United States, they learned that there might not be enough evidence to prosecute me and that the only pending issue involves the importation of zircon from the United States and the manufacture of some casts, for the arms industry purchases department, to manufacture defense parts and pieces here in Chile. (Cardoen shows a small red-colored plastic wheel and some small metal pieces).

[Oyarzun] Were these parts were for Iraq?

[Cardoen] They were for Iraq, but they were not sent because the cast was not ready. None of these pieces were ever dispatched.

[Oyarzun] Who ordered them?

[Cardoen] One of our engineers. He foolishly instructed the preparation of the casts in the United States when it could have been manufactured anywhere else. He wanted it made there because it was cheaper. U.S. officials say this represents a violation of U.S. exports laws, which is absolutely questionable because the product was never exported. They claim we reportedly violated U.S. export laws by importing zircon to manufacture explosives without informing that they were explosives for military use. Nevertheless, all the U.S. Embassy officials involved in this issue—military attaches and the ambassador—were informed at the time that it was to be used for military explosives. We, as manufacturers, do not have to go beyond requirements or requests. We failed to mention that it was for military explosives and this is the violation for which they are requesting my extradition and have made all this fuss.

[Oyarzun] You are accused of violating federal laws.

[Cardoen] They accuse me of exporting merchandise that violated certain laws. It was exported by Teledyne, a huge multinational from Oregon with whom we dealt dozens of times over eight years.

[Oyarzun] Is Teledyne also being investigated?

[Cardoen] Our lawyers state that charges will be filed jointly against the main Teledyne executives, me, and people linked to me in the United States, who so far have not been named.

[Oyarzun] Does the United States want you there to be tried under U.S. law?

[Cardoen] Yes.

[Oyarzun] Will this be done through a request to the Foreign Ministry to send the petition to the Supreme Court?

[Cardoen] Yes, in keeping with the 1902 Extradition Treaty signed with the United States—which does not include violations of custom laws which we have not violated anyway.

[Oyarzun] What other measure do you think the United States will implement against you?

[Cardoen] According to Chilean law, when another government requests someone's arrest, the Supreme Court must comply and the person must be held for 60 days, the time it takes to formally request extradition. This is the form of pressure they have told my lawyers they are going to exert. I would rather be under arrest in Chile, thus forcing the U.S. Government to show its cards rather then being accused of something concrete.

If prison is the price I have to pay to see these peoples' cards, I will readily give up my freedom for a time. I am willing to do so to, once and for all, put an end to the slanderous campaign.

[Oyarzun] In other words, a possible U.S. request for your preventive detention would represent a form of punishment even if later it does not request your extradition.

[Cardoen] Of course. If the request for my preventive custody is made, the Supreme Court must order my arrest while the extradition request is made. If nothing happens in 60 days, one is released, but not before.

[Oyarzun] When will this happen?

[Cardoen] Within the next 10 days according to the information my U.S. lawyers have. But I do not mind being under arrest if by doing so I will force these terrorists to show their cards.

[Oyarzun] Why did you go to La Moneda?

[Cardoen] To talk to Interior Minister Enrique Krauss and Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa and inform them of what is happening. I have done so permanently.

[Oyarzun] What did they say to you?

[Cardoen] They supported me. Obviously, they cannot solve the problem because it is up to the court to do so. I feel I have the government's support and negotiations were conducted at embassy level. From now on it is exclusively a U.S. decision.

[Oyarzun] There is currently a trial worth $50 million in the United States. Is that something different?

[Cardoen] We won against the U.S. Government over the illegal confiscation of property. Another case has been opened regarding the confiscation of my helicopter. Both cases are at a standstill due to constant administrative postponements by the United States. In the case of the confiscation of property, we managed to get a judge to establish a 10 day deadline to prove the need to continue to hold the property or to release it. Although this is not a favorable decision, we have been somewhat successful because they have not been able to justify the confiscation of my property. We are certain that this will be solved soon and are very optimistic.

In the other case no trial has been opened yet and we want them to file the charges or give up and let us get on with our work.

From the commercial viewpoint amny terrorist practices have been implemented to get me to yield all my rights. They even got enterprises such as the helicopter manufacturer Bell to strip me of my license in Chile; enterprises such as Nalco to stop working with me; and they vetoed the possibility of obtaining a license to manufacture jeans. I want to put an end to this persecution. They are trying to get me to give in by requesting my extradition.

[Oyarzun] How can three government officials, no matter how important they are, confront a foreign businessman?

[Cardoen] It is incredible, but one only has to read the book by Manuel Montt, rector of the Diego Portales University, who was charged with trying to murder President Jimmy Carter. They bothered him and his family for a whole year. They are "idiots" of the system who get into situations from which they cannot pull out.

It is hard to believe that officials of a government department in charge of safeguarding public health would poison grapes to stop the competition and thus protect their interests.

These "gangsters" [preceding word in English] belong to the system and they apply their methods without being punished. I want to warn the Chilean businessmen and youths to be careful because while there is talk about free trade and freedom, some U.S. officials believe it only works for them, that we are third category people with whom they can use any methods.

[Oyarzun] Has there been any diplomatic negotiation with President Clinton's Administration?

[Cardoen] Yes. The officials recently appointed by President Clinton have a more objective attitude. We have found people who deserve out confidence but I do not understand the driving force behind the persecution against me. In his

book, Montt asks his wife who she thinks is behind the campaign and she answers: "The Devil."

[Oyarzun] Do you believe the Devil is against you?

[Cardoen] I believe there is a satanic energy that moves the system; it is not people, it is a system of incredible injustice. How can it be stopped? A Mexican doctor was kidnapped by [U.S.] Customs agents who carted him off to the United States. He was tried because the courts noted that, although he had been kidnapped, they had powers to prosecute him. The courts declared him innocent and he was sent back to Mexico. He spent eight months in prison.

[Oyarzun] Do you fear that you may also be kidnapped here and carted off to the United States?

[Cardoen] I am taking precautions.

[Oyarzun] What is the reason behind attacking, through commercial terrorism, a Chilean named Carlos Cardoen?

[Cardoen] Anyone capable of logic should be able to work out that if a government of such an important country as the United States investigates someone, it is because there is something big, something illegal. Is this not so? Yet this is not the case. If I were not absolutely tranquil and assured of my total innocence, I would not be loudly accusing the world's most important government of being a terrorist, a gangster, and of attacking with impunity an innocent citizen.

The United States may be interested in stopping the manufacture of arms by others because it is one of the most important tools it uses to subdue Third World countries. It historically uses the supply of arms to pull strings in Third World countries. The first thing the United States did during Augusto Pinochet's military regime was to approve the Kennedy amendment. They mistakenly believed that Chile could not survive a military supply problem on its own. Fortunately, we were able to overcome that problem. The U.S. Government has always sought to prevent Third World countries from developing independent arms supply systems. This is the only reason I can think of for persecuting me. Other competitors might also be interested in hurting me and getting me out of the way.

[Oyarzun] To get you out of arms manufacturing?

[Cardoen] I stopped manufacturing arms a long time ago, but I maintain the capacity to produce them.

[Oyarzun] Is it possible that all this U.S. interest is due to your connection with Cuba and Fidel Castro?

[Cardoen] I do not think the Unites States looks very kindly upon my relations with Cuba but, I have been pragmatic. I sought opportunities for Chile and for me, not for the United States.

[Oyarzun] Is your connection with Cuba related to arms?

[Cardoen] No, never. I have never had any relations with the Cuban Government on anything related to arms. I have maintained close relations with them in fruit production, fruit juices, and the freezing of citruses. We have assisted them in handling procedures and we have taken care of their fruit exports.

[Oyarzun] Did you try to negotiate with the U.S. Government?

[Cardoen] I repeatedly tried to show them that the charges of technology theft were unbelievable. We proved that we attained our high standards through the ingenuity and capacity of national engineers and technicians, using existing know-how, and innovating in such a way that our inventions obtained patents in the United States and Europe.

We met, seeking a compromise, but they always sustained that a deal was possible only after my incarceration, something I could not accept. They also proposed an agreement through which I became an informer for U.S. intelligence services, which I also rejected.

[Oyarzun] Do you feel rather lonely in this fight? What is the matter with the Industrial Development Association, the Sofofa, etc?

[Cardoen] I have always been an atypical entrepreneur. I have never sought group protection. Perhaps it was a mistake because I could have sought the help of the association, had I joined one. But I am not encouraged by the results of the poisoned grapes case. Many organized people defend the case of the poisoned grapes but they have gotten nowhere.

[Oyarzun] Do you have a clean conscience?

[Cardoen] Absolutely. If I did not have a clean conscience I would not be here talking as I am now. I would be hiding and trying to patch things up with them.

[Oyarzun] Are you aware that the public mistrusts you somewhat?

[Cardoen] It is possible, without a doubt. People may think there is something behind the accusations of the world's largest power. I want to clear up these doubts because nothing is more important to me than my dignity and my condition as an honest entrepreneur who has always respected Chilean laws. I am sure local authorities watched my activities many times, but I never had to answer for any crimes.

[Oyarzun] Why should the Chilean Government help you if you have a personal problem with the U.S. Government?

[Cardoen] It would be shameful to ask for government help if the case involved only trade. But this is a clearly political issue. It is only logical for me to ask the government that represents me to help me defend myself.

[Oyarzun] What bothers you the most in this affair?

[Cardoen] Above everything is that it affects my dignity, my person, and my family. My children know me and cannot understand why I am being questioned. For their sakes, I cannot accept being humiliated, because it is very unfair. I challenge anyone to prove that I have violated the law. This is all such a waste of time.

Colombia

Education Minister Addresses Strikers

PA2605155193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 25 May 93

[Television address by Education Minister Maruja Pachon de Villamizar on 24 May; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Parents, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen: The National Government, through the Ministry of Education, would like to explain to the public and to the education community, honestly, precisely, and clearly, the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate and unjust indefinite suspension of school activities called by the Colombian Teachers' Federation [Fecode] on 18 May, and the reasons for doing so. The promoters, in a letter to this ministry dated 11 May, state that the government has failed to comply with the agreements and the accords reached with Fecode regarding the discussion of two draft laws at the Congress. These laws are the General Education Law and Draft Law 120 regarding the transfer of resources and personnel to territorial agencies.

On the above, I would like to strongly state that there are no commitments and there cannot be any commitments with Fecode or any other trade union on matters of legislative decisions that only the National Congress, in its wisdom, can make. The government does not make the laws. It presents drafts and proposals to the Congress. Once the Congress approves them, the government issues them, obeys them and insures their strict compliance. The government cannot transgress the authority of the Congress, as Fecode would suggest. It can defend the principle of democratic participation in the discussion of the laws, as this administration has and seeks to continue doing so, and can assist in creating opportunities for broad based-deliberation, as long as such opportunities are not the product of intimidation or abnormal pressure. The Congress is also free to reopen the discussion, when it requires further illustration, which would allow Fecode—and any other organization, trade union, or sector, which might have an interest therein—to defend their arguments while permitting their opposers to defend theirs. This is true participative democracy.

Without arbitrary cohesive pressure, the government is willing to negotiate. I must repeat, however, loud and clear, that under no circumstances will the government transgress the authority of the National Congress. Strikes are legal and respectable when they seek to prevent the law and the rights of the workers to be violated. They are unjust and dangerous, however, when they are called to force the government to pressure the Congress to legislate in a certain way.

Despite the different regional reactions, we have just finished a full week of public disorders provoked by the Fecode decree, which comes at a time of internal commotion decreed to face terrorism, subversion, and the enemies of the fatherland. Precisely now, when all of Colombia needs civil solidarity and the cooperation of all well-intentioned Colombians, new elements of unrest, concern, and uncertainty are introduced, which are completely untimely and inconvenient, and harm the community in general, the education community, the students, and the teachers themselves.

It seems unbelievable that the federation and many of its leaders are saying that this strike is to defend labor achievements, gained after many years of struggle, such as salary or job stability. This is not true. These achievements belong to the past. They are a problem that has already been resolved. The Teachers Benefit Fund and the Teachers Law will be respected. The government will establish basic salaries based on the salary schedule, and in accordance with the legal provisions currently in effect. The government assures that it will not go back on i's commitments. On the contrary, at this new constitutional stage, the teachers' working conditions, added to the constant concern over the teachers' qualifications, will be properly addressed in legislation, which will translate to an improved economic status and a better quality of life.

The Education Ministry must warn that in accordance with the duties outlined in the Constitution, the laws, current decrees, and the teachers' statutes, it will apply the sanctions provided for in these rules. Throughout the country records are being prepared that will serve to directly back the measures that will be immediately taken.

Even though we are sure that many of the teachers are not responsible for the decisions made by Fecode directors—decisions they do not even agree with—the government, nevertheless, will not hesitate to apply the law and punish all of those who breach it, as well as those who do not fulfill their duties and obligations in a public service that is aimed at satisfying a social need. Those who deny Colombian youths and children their sacred and fundamental right to study and place them at risk by denying them the care of their teachers are those who are involved in an unfair strike. These youths and children are also denied their parents' care—parents who have to work to earn their family's daily subsistence.

Parents, students, and teachers, we call upon the whole education community to report to your schools early on the morning of 26 May, to reestablish complete normalcy in our activities and to put our feelings of confrontation aside, as such have surely taken over some of

us simply because of a lack of information. I encourage you to live up to the responsibility of the moment and to contribute your strong yet calm attitude to the creation of the best educational conditions in which to prepare Colombians for democracy, with respect for human rights and a devotion for peace. Colombia so needs it. Good night.

Ecuador

Nationwide Strike Begins; Violence Noted

PA2605222193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Quito, 26 May (EFE)—Strikers and police officers on 26 May clashed in several cities and highways in Ecuador as a nationwide indefinite strike began, while the incidents in Quito spread and even neared the Carondelet Presidential Palace.

The authorities and trade union leaders said that the disorders, though not violent, left several wounded and arrested, but up to 1400 (1900 GMT) no figures had been released.

A police vehicle was set on fire in the central area of Quito, and radio and television newscasts reported that in the interior of the country there had been isolated cases of looting and demonstrators were throwing rocks at vehicles, stores, and banks.

The incidents that took place near the Presidential Palace—which were carefully observed by the military—were staged mainly by groups of students and Quito municipal workers. The demonstrators were dispersed with tear gas.

Labor Minister Alfredo Corral said that the government reiterates its call for a dialogue to prevent the strike from spreading.

This is the second nationwide strike President Sixto Duran-Ballen has had to cope with in a little over nine months of government, and it is the first in the country's history scheduled for an indefinite period.

The strikers seek that the government give up the state modernization and privatization project. They also reject the economic adjustment plan that Duran-Ballen issued in September 1992 as well as the one he has announced for June 1993.

Government Minister Roberto Dunn reiterated that Duran-Ballen will decide if the situation calls for issuing a decree declaring a state of national emergency, although he emphasized that for the time being, "the situation is under control."

Minister Dunn added that "the great losers are the people and the country, and there are no winners here. If the union leaders are bragging about any possibility of success, they are hypocrites and hoodlums, because the country is losing out in this situation."

Ramiro Rosales, one of the leaders of the United Workers Front (FUT) that includes the main trade unions in the city that called for the strike, requested that the Catholic Church act as a mediator to prevent the extending of the strike. [sentence as received] "We publicly request that the Church act as a mediator, because we do not advocate extremist positions nor do we want this situation to be marred in the future with violence," the leader added.

Governor Angel Duarte, provincial representative of the president in Guayaquil—which is the most populated city in Ecuador and is considered the "most important economic center" of the country, located 442 km southwest of Quito—reported that eight persons had been arrested and that the "alleged paralysis of the city was a mirage."

Nonetheless, the media disclosed that the strike has been gradually picking up strength and that groups of alleged hoodlums had infiltrated into the strikers and were throwing stones at several banks and shops.

Arrested, Injured Reported

PA2705014393 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 May 93

[Report by Patricio Gonzalez]

[Text] A list of persons injured and arrested during the strike was released a few minutes ago by the Confederation of Ecuadoran Workers' [CTE] Human Rights Center and the Permanent Human Rights Assembly. This is the list of injured people provided by the CTE:

Citizens gathered at the CTE offices were attacked and evicted from the premises at 0900 on 26 May. Javier Salazar was hit with a [word indistinct] and he sustained a head injury. A demonstrator was shot in the leg at 1000 at the Patria Institute. A Juan Montalvo College student was shot in front of the Central University at 1000. A worker at the National Textile Factory was shot at 1300. Maritza Lopez and Marcos Zamora sustained head injuries at 1300 when they were hit by tear gas canisters fired in the vicinity of Eugenio Trejo Hospital.

Citizens participating in a march clashed with Police early on 26 May in Loja. Four persons were injured and arrested. The same report says police employees' leader Luis Munoz sustained a face injury when he was hit by a tear gas canister. He was attacked by policemen, according to information from the labor group.

An unidentified correspondent was injured at 1715 in front of the Central Bank building. According to the report, Luis Coronado, a textile company worker, was attacked in the area. Jose Luis Piarco, a CTE human rights correspondent, [words indistinct], and Luis Coronado also sustained injuries.

Following is the list of arrested people: Luis Huaman, a student at Santiago College in Guayaquil, was arrested at 1000. Seven persons were arrested in El Retiro. Alexis

Cedeno, 23, was arrested while she participated in a rally in front of the Finance Ministry at 1100. An unidentified man was arrested in the Central Bank area at 1200. The team of human rights correspondents took pictures of police beating the young man at the time of his arrest. The arrest of Manuel Macas was reported at 0900 in the southern part of the city.

Seven young men were arrested at the entrance to the Mena Cox housing project on Pichincha Avenue. The names and ages of five of them has been provided: Javier Indica, 26; Christian Proano, 20; Juan Carlos Toaza, 22; Eduardo Morales, 22; and William Bernales, 18. Five [as heard] persons were arrested around the Central Bank at 1300. They were identified as Lucio Eduardo Aurestia, Fernando Pina, Reinaldo Tello, and a girl wearing jeans and a black blouse. Fernando Pina was arrested in front of the Andean Bank offices. The information indicates these people were beaten by public force members.

Marcos Caixa Argueta was arrested at the Pichincha Sports Federation building. Two workers were arrested at 6 December and Wilson Streets. A security agent seen in El Retiro was almost lynched by a group of demonstrators but was released immediately thanks to a human rights group's intervention.

Angel Sangolema, a Plastex Company worker, was arrested at 1700 in the southern part of the city.

According to reports from labor union leaders, approximately 50 persons were arrested in Guayas Province; three workers were arrested this morning in Cotopaxi; Vicente Guadalupe, an electric company worker, was arrested early this morning in Chimborazo. He was later released. Four persons were arrested in Loja.

Defense Minister on Presence of Peruvian Troops in Ecuador

PA2205193693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] General Jose Gallardo, the Ecuadoran defense minister, on 20 May said that since 1989, Peruvian military troops have occupied an area of Ecuador's southeastern jungle and have failed to fulfill a withdrawal agreement signed two years ago. The Peruvian troops have been in Pachacutec from the end of 1989 and have done certain jobs which—I am told—are aimed at improving conditions in the area while their troops are there, said the defense minister at a news conference. Gallardo added that Ecuador views the Pachacutec area as Ecuadoran territory.

Paraguay

Commentator Assesses Impact of U.S. Recognizing Wasmosy Win

PY2605211093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 May 93 p 10

[Commentary by Jose Nicolas Morinigo]

[Text] From the political viewpoint, one of the United States' key problems in Latin America lies in establishing a fair balance between long-term objectives—the consolidation of democracy—and the vicissitudes caused by short-term tensions, that is, the progress and setbacks characteristic of a government in the process of transition. From this angle the visit that U.S. Ambassador Glassman paid to Engineer [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy—winner of the elections, with a majority for the Colorado Party, according to information disclosed by the Central Electoral Board [JEC]—was an option that furthered the immediate objective instead of a more complex, more delicate objective which was at the same time much more suitable for guaranteeing the consolidation of a democratic political regime.

During his visit the ambassador said that "it is up to Congress to recognize" the elections results, but he congratulated Wasmosy "for his apparent victory, based on the official results which are to be disclosed." In this case the comments are ambiguous, but the gesture is very clear.

It is a gesture that has repercussions, the kind of gesture that is generally not made without previously having made the necessary contacts with other friendly ambassadors. It is therefore only normal that a chain recognition should follow the godfather's blessing of he who has obtained, according to his own expression, an "apparent victory."

The arguments which justify a diplomatic reaction before Congress passes its final judgement on the results have three objectives: 1. to hamper the climate of uncertainty regarding the results; 2. to impose the gradualism theory, that is, democracy as a political system requires conditions which are attained gradually; and 3. to cooperate to prevent an even greater weakening of the shaky political pillar sustaining Wasmosy's victory, strongly questioned by a faction of the Colorado Party and a segment of the opposition.

As one can see, as long as one can accept the analysis, the United States has chosen to privilege the short term effects, overlooking three key issues for Paraguay's democratic future: 1. the characteristics of the link between the Colorado Party and the Armed forces; 2. the existence of mechanisms preventing an adequately open electoral process; and 3. the existence of plans that were implemented to purposely jeopardize the right to vote in freedom.

Undoubtedly the U.S. Government's recognition of Wasmosy's victory has different effects in the short and long term. In the first case it strengthens the victory of the candidate of one segment of the Colorado Party, but in the second case it casts doubt on the true objective of really establishing democratic regimes in Latin America.

The ambassador could have made a more balanced statement in which he admitted, without ambiguities, that during the 9 May elections the existence of certain difficulties in exercising the right to vote were observed.

We can nevertheless still come to an important conclusion. Regardless of the role played by the embassy, Paraguay's democratic future belongs exclusively to Paraguayans. In this regard Congress has the delicate task of conferring upon the JEC reports their true value, and if it manages to do so it will be opening an important door to granting credibility to the results of the elections which, so far, are very doubtful. I believe that the comments by Senator Jorge Raul Garcete, president of the bicameral commission, indicate that he is a respectful and reliable legislator. Time will tell.

Financial Situation at Itaipu Dam Termed 'Dramatic'

PY2605225193 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 May 93 p 13

[Text] Miguel Luciano Jimenez, general director of the Itaipu dam on the Paraguayan side, has described Itaipu's financial situation as dramatic, because income derived from the sale of energy is still scarce.

The serious financial crisis affecting Itaipu is caused by the arrears in payments by Brazilian electricity companies such as Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.] and Eletrosul [Southern Electric Power Plants], which at this point owe more than $4.5 million for the purchase of energy. What is even worse, the Brazilian clients pay in small sums which are not enough to cover Itaipu's minimum needs.

Itaipu should receive a total of $180 million per month, but Jimenez confirmed yesterday that in April Itaipu received only $1.7 million.

Brazilians have promised to resolve this problem by July, because by this time the Brazilian electricity companies will be able to tranfer part of their incomes to Itaipu. Jimenez was, however, pessimistic about this, because the Brazilian officials made this promise when the streamlining of the Brazilian eletricity sector had been implemented. Moreover, ANDE [National Electric Power Administration] is not paying Itaipu, and has an accumulated debt of about $16 million. In view of this the Paraguayan side of Itaipu was forced to request an $8 million loan from the Paraguayan private banking sector. Of this total $6 million have already been disbursed. Jimenez said that the payment of the salaries of Itaipu workers has been prioritized, and other commitments have been postponed.

Movements Unite To Form 'Colorado Democratic Union' Faction

PY2605230693 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 26 May 93 p 6

[Text] The Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco), the Historic Colorado, and the Colorado Youth have united to launch the Colorado Democratic Union [Union Democratica Colorada]. This new Colorado Party faction seeks to group representatives from all Colorado party blocs and to uphold ANR [National Republican Assocation] principles.

Another characteristic of this new group is that those who join the Colorado Democratic Union will not have to resign the principles of the different party movements to which they belong. Senator Waldino Ramon Lovera said: "This is an open movement which strives to group all those party members who uphold a democratic line and are interested in rescuing party ideals."

A committee has been established to promote contacts with other sectors. This committee is composed of Arsenio Aguayo, Julio Belotto, Georgina de Zacarias Arza, and Juan Martens, who was appointed committee coordinator. In the meeting held yesterday by the coordinators of the three movements comprising the Colorado Democratic Union, it was established that one of the first things to be done will be to promote contacts with all party bloc leaders to inform them about their plans, and to confirm whether or not they would join the Colorado Democratic Union.

Asked about the possibility that [Luis Maria] Argana followers would refuse to support this movement because the majority of them do not participate in ANR activities, 18 of them have resigned from the ANR executive baord, and in view of the so-called "Argana bloc" in the new legislature, Lovera said: "This is an open movement that will group all factions. However, I decline to make any comments regarding Congress, because this movement concerns party affairs exclusively."

Peru

Fujimori Pardons 11 Officers Involved in Coup Attempt

PA2605185693 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 May 93

[Report by Maritza Lopez]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori on 26 May pardoned eleven officers sentenced by a military court for participating in the November 1992 coup attempt. In brief statements to the media the president said General Salinas Sedo is not among them. He boarded a helicopter at the Las Palmas Base to inspect vacant lots where schools will be built.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I went to inspect some lots.

[Reporter] Is the program to modernize education continuing?

[Fujimori] Not only that. We are also trying to upgrade access roads.

[Reporter] Will you reveal the names of the officers who will be pardoned?

[Fujimori] They were already revealed. [end recording]

Those were brief statements by President Fujimori announcing that eleven officers sentenced by a military court were pardoned. This will be published in the next few hours in the EL PERUANO official newspaper.

Politicians React to Coup in Guatemala

PA2605183793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Politicians from various parties, including Enrique Chirinos of the Renewal Movement, Victor Joy Way of the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition, and Julio Diaz of the Democratic Left Movement expressed their views concerning the Guatemalan president's self-inflicted coup. Argentine ambassador to Peru Julian Licastro also commented.

[Begin recording] [Chirinos] This incident shows the existence of the antipolitical, antiparty policy, to which NEWSWEEK magazine recently referred, and is the result of a lack of constitutional mechanisms whereby a country's president and congress can peacefully settle their differences.

[Joy Way] I believe this is a worldwide movement; it is not restricted to Latin America. It marks a return to morality, the sensible handling of economics in politics, and an effort to favor national interests.

[Diaz] I believe this incident is an unfortunate event for democracy in Latin America. In my opinion, it shows that a new phase has begun in which coups d'etat are the order of the day in Latin America.

[Licastro] As you know, it is not up to diplomats to judge countries' domestic political situations. What Argentina wants, and has clearly stated at such forums as the Group of Rio and OAS, and from its own experience, is the definitive consolidation of democratic processes in Latin America. The end of this century must find us united around the defense of democracy; honest, clean, and effective democracy that is also capable of providing people with economic development and social justice. [end recording]

'Important' Constitutional Articles Still Left Undefined

PY2605200393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 May 93 p A4

[Excerpt] The text of the new constitution being drafted by the Congressional Constitutional Committee still leaves undefined several important themes of paramount importance in the life of the country.

In addition to articles of an ethical nature, on the death sentence for terrorism or for genocide, and the article on immediate presidential reelection, which is of a highly political nature, there are pending articles on abortion and on freedom of the press and expression.

The ruling party alliance tends to favor the approval of capital punishment, while the opposition groups are split on the issue. The final decision rests with each one's conscience.

The New Mayority-Change 90 group favors immediate presidential reelection, while practically all the opposition groups are against this. [passage omitted]

Secretary General of the Presidency Resigns

PY2605174793 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 May 93 p A4

[Excerpts] Through brief resolutions published yesterday in the EL PERUANO official newspaper, the government accepted the resignation of the Secretary General of the Presidency Alberto Diaz Lau and appointed Porfirio Quinte Villegas. [passage omitted]

The reasons for the resignation of Diaz, a trusted adviser of President Alberto Fujimori, are not known.

On 16 May, the Sunday Review television program reported that Alberto Diaz Lau is allegedly a shareholder of two companies that belong to the CLAE [Latin American Center of Business Counseling] group [the CLAE group was involved in a financial scandal], which is owned by the controversial CLAE Chairman Carlos Manrique Carreno.

The report added that Diaz Lau is a board member of the Agroindustrial Cruz del Sur and Serviagro companies. In addition, it was reported that these companies are merely "ghost" companies that only exist on paper. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

University Students, Teachers March in Caracas

PA2705022993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 26 May 93

[Report by Melissa Soto in Caracas]

[Text] Approximately 20,000 members of the university community participated in a march on 26 May to request budget appropriations to continue operations in the next few months. Rectors, professors, students, employees, and workers from all universities throughout the country participated in the march, which began at on schedule at 1100. They demanded approximately 35 billion bolivares in additional resources to continue university operations during the next semester.

The heavy rain that hit the city throughout the day failed to deter the thousands of people who gathered at Bolivar Square to demand a much more fair budget for the education sector. Later the participants marched peacefully toward the Congress of the Republic, where they delivered a document requesting additional credits to

cover the lack of funds for universities, stating that without additional funds their activities will come to a standstill on 1 July.

[Begin recording, Latin American University Dean Miguel Rodriguez] The situation reached unacceptable extremes in 1993. The additional credit requested on this occasion, 35 billion bolivares, is more than 50 percent of what was appropriated in December 1992. That proves the magnitude of the gap between the resources we have requested and what has been appropriated. [end recording]

Although the march sought to demand a better budget, many of the participants decided to paint signs on walls, buses, and vehicles. University students arrived peacefully at Bolivar Square, chanting the slogan: United for a Fair Budget. They waited for the authorization to approach the Congress of the Republic.

Once the permit was granted, they were received by Acting Congress President Luis Enrique Oberto, to whom they delivered a document listing the basic needs that resulted in the protest.

[Begin recording] [Oberto] As a result of the meeting, we agreed to appoint a commission comprised of Senate and Chamber of Deputies members to meet with university rectors and student representatives, and the finance and education ministers, to seek possible solutions to the problem.

[Central University Dean Simon Munoz] The conclusion is that this marvelous, combative, and civic mobilization of the university community, accompanied by the people of Caracas—to achieve the necessary resources needed by the universities to operate in 1993, and to continue their activities in 1994—has not been in vain. [end recording]

The future of higher education in Venezuela will be decided on Tuesday, 1 June. Meanwhile, we report that the last paragraph of the document delivered by the university rectors to Acting Congress President Oberto states that failure to approve the resources would result in a paralysis of activities in the national universities and a conflict that will have critical repercussions in the country.

NOTIMEX Reports Police Intervention

PA2605221493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1940 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 26 May (NOTIMEX)—Police repressed some 15,000 demonstrators with tear gas in downtown Caracas on 26 May at the conclusion of marches staged by teachers and university students. Authorities claim the number was less than 5,000.

Police attacked the students without any apparent reason, according to reporters who were nearby. Tear gas was repeatedly fired at the students, which led to a climate of fear on Plaza Bolivar in downtown Caracas.

The organizers decided to stage a march by dissident teachers, who were protesting the signing of a group contract on 25 May, to coincide with that of the university students, who are demanding that the government increase the university budget by $400 million.

The 26 May march was the second to end in violence in downtown Caracas since Octavio Lepage took office on 21 May after replacing suspended President Carlos Andres Perez, who is facing corruption charges.

The marches staged by the teachers and the university students started from southwest and east central Caracas, respectively, without any major incidents being reported on their way downtown.

The National Guard, which has been placed under military control, surrounded the demonstrators on Plaza Bolivar to prevent them from reaching the Congress, located a block to the south, where a university student commission, including two rectors, was stating its demands.

The police intervened at around 1500 [1900 GMT] firing tear gas and water cannons at the demonstrators.

Prosecutor General Comments on Presidency

PA2605181693 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1615 GMT 26 May 93

[Interview with Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar Salom by unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Escovar] I wish to greet the local and foreign correspondents and tell you the following: I will be testifying on several very important issues, the last of which is very important for the future of this trial that I have begun against the president of the Republic. I will begin by saying that there is a vacancy in the position of president of the Republic that must be filled according to the Constitution and by applying Articles 187 and 188. A new president must be appointed within the 30-day period. The Constitution is very clear. When the commission that drafted the Constitution—I was a member of that commission—discussed the temporary absence, we only took into consideration the cases of sickness or absence from the country. What we have now is something quite different. This time the president has been suspended. Therefore, the president of the Republic cannot exercise any of the rights, absolutely none of the rights, established in Article 190 of the Constitution. As a result of this, the president cannot give orders to the Armed Forces nor can he direct Venezuela's foreign policy, among other things.

The suspension has very important effects on the exercise of power. In Venezuela there can only be one president. We cannot have two or one and a half presidents. We can only have one president. This duality in power almost represents a schism in the presidency of the Republic. It would be the same as dividing the presidency of the Republic in two. It would be the same

as what happened within the Catholic Church when there was a pope in Rome and a pope in Avignon in southern France. We cannot have a pope in Avignon or in La Casona [presidential residence] and a pope in Rome at Miraflores Palace. There can only be one president of the Republic. Therefore, those who are calling for two presidents are wrong because it violates the Constitution. This could, at a given time, create a situation I would rather not foresee, but which could be very significant and important for the future of constitutional order in Venezuela.

[Reporter] Prosecutor General, then how would you solve this situation from the legal viewpoint.

[Escovar] According to the way I see it, the first step would be for the Congress to appoint a new president within the next 30 days. It would be most advisable that this be done as soon as possible and without pressures. The Congress should not be hasty in its selection of a new president. I also wish to clarify that....

[Reporter, interrupting] [question indistinct]

[Escovar] Excuse me, excuse me. We are not talking about an acting or provisional president. I wish to clarify for the local and foreign press that here in Venezuela we are using a phrase that is not correct. The Constitution does not mention an acting or provisional president in these cases. The constitution calls for a full-time president for the rest of the constitutional period.

[Reporter] Then the absence would be permanent.

[Escovar] This would mean that the absence is permanent and not temporary as is being said.

[Reporter] Prosecutor General, what about the request made by the governors for the Supreme Court of Justice to rule in this case based on the Constitution?

[Escovar] This is a very important issue and I wish to add the following: The cases in which the Supreme Court of Justice can be approached are clearly established in the laws of the Supreme Court of Justice. This is not one of those cases. As far as I am concerned, as far as the Office of the Prosecutor General is concerned, the Congress, and I repeat, the Congress, must decide. This is not a matter to be taken before the Supreme Court. I told the governors who visited me that this is a problem for the Congress to handle. They came to ask the views of the Office of the Prosecutor General on this. As prosecutor general, I believe that this case must be handled by the Congress. If someone were to believe that the Congress' ruling was not appropriate and that the Congress is not the appropriate authority to be handling this matter, then this person can take the matter up before the Supreme Court of Justice. However, this has to be done after the Congress rules.

[Reporter] What can you do? What will you do? [words indistinct]

[Escovar] If someone believes that the Congress' ruling is against the law, then it can be brought before the Supreme Court of Justice, however, not before the Congress rules, as some want.

[Reporter] Prosecutor General, are you going to approach the Congress in light of the fact you say that only the Congress can decide?

[Escovar] I do not wish to exert pressure. This matter is for the Congress to solve; however, as prosecutor general, I can state an opinion and that is what I am doing. As prosecutor general, I must ensure that the laws are respected.

Copei Leaders Want New President Appointed

PA2605175293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] On the morning of 25 May, Social Christian Party [Copei] President Hilarion Cardozo and Secretary General Jose Curiel met at Miraflores Palace with Acting President Octavio Lepage to clearly establish their position regarding the length of Lepage's time in office. The ranking Copei leaders stressed that in no case should the temporary presidency extend beyond 30 days.

[Begin Cardozo recording] It is our belief that he should be the acting president and that we must proceed to fulfill the Senate agreement, which in my opinion, has been clearly established. The legislative chambers must appoint the person who will have presidential attributes and powers during the president's absence. I believe that this should be done within the shortest time possible; within a period of no more than 30 days. [end recording]

Cardozo explained that the problem is the constitutional debate over the applicable article pertaining to provisionality. He said that this situation creates a certain amount of instability that should be overcome at once because uncertainty is not good for the country. Cardozo added that it is up to the legislative chambers to appoint a new president until the situation of President Carlos Andres Perez is resolved.

Meanwhile, Jose Curiel confirmed his party's position.

[Begin recording] [Curiel] I have confirmed the party's resolve to step up the process of finding the president who will complete the rest of the term. He must be chosen within a deadline of no more than 30 days after Dr. Lepage takes office, which is established in Articles 187 and 188 of the national Constitution.

[Unidentified reporter] Doctor, many names have been mentioned, including that of [words indistinct] and even Calderon Berti.

[Curiel] Copei's National Directorate has issued a very clear decision. It has established that an active member of the party cannot take over the presidency of the Republic, therefore, that possibility must be dismissed. I

believe that Democratic Action, as I have often said, must take the initiative in this regard. [end recording]

Defense Minister Reports on Military Promotions

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[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has announced in the Miraflores Palace that in the next few days Acting President Octavio Lepage will decide on military promotions. After meeting with the acting president, the defense minister said that the corresponding documents have been presented to Dr. Lepage and that a final list should be presented to Congress within the next few days. He denied reports that there has been a 50-percent reduction in the number of people nominated for promotion.

[Begin Jiminez recording] I do not think promotions are requested separately by the branches of the Armed Forces. Fortunately, in the Armed Forces we have a hierarchical system and discipline and the positions are filled by the Armed Forces Command, not by the individual branches. [end recording]

The defense minister took advantage of the situation to deny reports that the Venezuelan National Guard has violated Aruba's territorial waters. The minister also reported that the Armed Forces will cooperate, as in previous occasions, in the elections to be held on 30 May in the states of Sucre and Barinas.